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THE NEWSPAPER FOR ASHFORD, TENTERDEN AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES



Issue No 155

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September 15, 2010

## HEALTH & BEAUTY

Tips and treatments to help you look good and feel even better – See inside



# HAS ASHFORD BEATEN THE RECESSION?

Figures show our jobs market has recovered from the downturn

ASHFORD has officially beaten the recession, according to a report from the South East Regional Development Agency, despite 38 town centre shops standing empty.

The document produced by the development group's research and economics team states that along with Dartford, the town's economy will be the fastest growing in Kent.

The report also shows that employment levels in Ashford have already returned to 2007 levels, and the

### EXCLUSIVE

■ BY ED HILL

town's gross value added growth rate (GVA), which measures an area's economic output, will continue at a fast pace over the next year.

It says: "Projections indicate a strong GVA growth rate this year in Ashford and Dartford at 2.7 per cent and 2.6 per cent, respectively.

"This is substantially larger than the average growth rate for Kent and Medway (1.8 per cent). In 2011, Ashford is expected to continue grow-

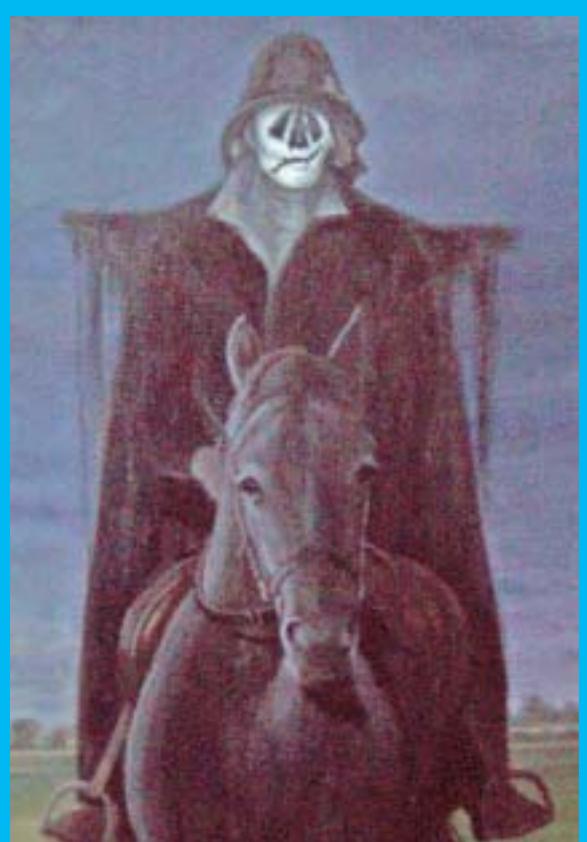
ing at a relatively fast pace (2.5 per cent) along with Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells."

However, the report says the predictions should be treated with caution and that for the retail sector times are still tough.

And according to a new campaign backed by local artists Terry Anthony and John Hopkin, 38 shops within the ring road are currently empty. They want landlords to waive rents so the empty windows can display artist's work until a new tenant is found.

Mr Anthony said: "We want both professional and amateur artists to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



## ADDING INTEREST TO EMPTY SHOPS

This stunning image by could be one of those displayed in empty shops around the town along with other work by local artists.

Painter Terry Anthony has teamed up with John Hopkin to try and persuade landlords to allow art to be put in shop windows until a new tenant can be found.

The duo want to hear from other local artists who would like to get involved. To find out more go to [www.terryanthony.com](http://www.terryanthony.com).



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RIGHT TRACK: Borough officials with the Ugandan delegates at the Julie Rose Stadium

# Quick out the blocks in race for 2012 base

■ BY ED HILL

WITH Olympic-standard training grounds such as the Julie Rose Stadium and Stour Centre, international teams including the USA and Uganda are eyeing up Ashford as a potential 2012 base.

Last week, delegates from Uganda were given a tour of what the town has to offer, and last month the USA paralympic team was checking out the options.

Secretary general of the Ugandan Olympic committee, Penninah Kabenge, and intern Patience Nakiwuge were joined by Mayor of Ashford Cllr Alan Wells, council leader Cllr Paul Bartlett, chief executive of Ashford Leisure Trust Emma Wood, trust chairman Mick Hubert and head of cultural services Mark Cartt.

So far, delegates from seven Olympic teams have been shown around. As well as the Julie Rose and Stour Centre, Ashford has two other approved Olympic facilities: Great Chart Golf Club and Chilham Park cross-country horse

riding centre. The Ugandan visitors also looked at Ashford Boxing Club and local hotels and were given a brochure about what is available in the rest of the borough.

With the Games less than two years away, town chiefs hope a major attraction for teams will be the fast rail link to the Olympic Park in Stratford.

The 30-minute journey means the stadium is virtually on the town's doorstep with central London just five more minutes down the line.

Visitors can also access Europe with Eurostar services stopping at the International station.

Cllr Bartlett said: "Ashford has longstanding links with sporting excellence, with local athletes competing at a national level, not to mention our own Olympians Jamie Staff and Lisa Dobriskey."

"Competing countries will not only be looking for suitable facilities, but also a range of accommodation, good transport links and leisure facilities for athletes to enjoy when not training."

"Ashford has four approved training camps, unbeatable transport links, accommodation to suit all budgets and a beautiful setting."

• For more on all the Olympic teams considering Ashford, turn to page 46.



SHELTER: Damian Green with Mark Ellison

## Town beating recession

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

get involved. It makes good business sense to make the town look better. Who wants to see a load of empty boxes with a 'To let' sign on show?"

Paul Bartlett, leader of the council, said: "The findings back our own research that Ashford has weathered the recession better than other areas of Kent but we are not complacent."

"We recognise the difficulties businesses are operating under. I'd say to any business that's struggling and feels the council can help to talk to us."

MP Damian Green said: "Ashford is in a stronger position than most areas of Kent. As the economy recovers we need to take advantage of that and let the world know Ashford is actually the best placed in the UK. You can build houses but we need jobs to go with them."

## Bishop lends a hand

ST MARY'S Church welcomed the Bishop of Dover to Ashford on Saturday.

The Rt Rev Trevor Willmott's visit was in preparation for the Friends of Kent Churches Ride and Stride event, which helps maintain churches across the county.

At St Mary's, Bishop Willmott helped clear the church in preparation for building work due to start next month. In June, plans were approved to create an improved arts venue in the church.

The £1.7 million project includes creating a flexible space in the nave for worship, ceremonies and performances, with new seating and under-floor heating, improved disabled access, and repairs to the ceiling, walls and paintwork.

## NHS survey feedback

THE NHS is conducting a survey about how local people want to get access to medicine.

It wants residents in Ashford and east Kent fill out a questionnaire for its pharmaceutical needs assessment (PNA).

Andrew Scott Clark, deputy director of public health for Eastern and Coastal Kent, said: "When producing our draft PNA we knew it was important that we understood how people use pharmacies and what they need them for. The report must reflect the services needed in each area."

Feedback can be given online at [www.easternandcoastalkent.nhs.uk/PNA](http://www.easternandcoastalkent.nhs.uk/PNA). For a written form, call 01227 282967. Responses must be submitted by November 4.

# Homeless charity visit by Green

MP DAMIAN Green visited the homeless charity Shelter in Ashford on Friday.

The MP said he wanted to know more about the work the charity is doing.

"We have had two years of recession and the number of people with housing problems has gone up," he said. "Even in Ashford, which is relatively prosperous, Shelter says there are about a third more people coming in than two years ago."

"They have lots of specific projects to help people and are moving into debt and benefits advice. People often have multiple difficulties. In hard economic times there is a bigger demand for subsidised housing."

"During the Stanhope redevelopment there was less social housing available than normal, although now

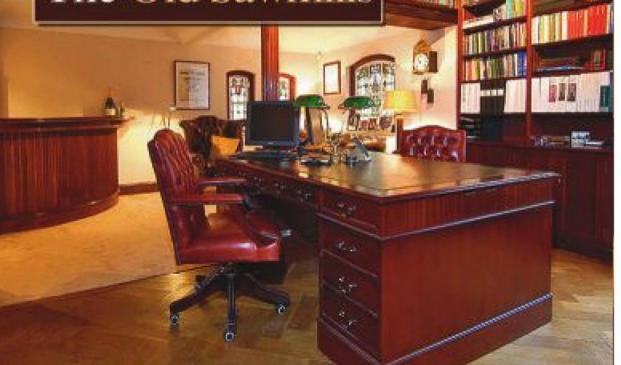
for people leaving prison.

Mark Ellison, service manager for Shelter, said: "We cover mid and south-west Kent and other areas of the county through our outreach services. We are trying to apply a holistic approach to people's housing problems."

The charity says problems can snowball very quickly meaning people are left without a home.

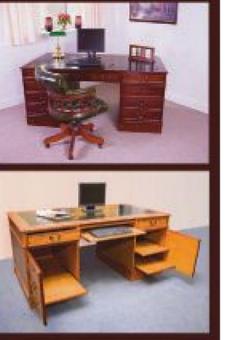
Mr Ellison said: "If people are suffering mortgage problems it's really important to find independent legal advice as soon as problems arise."

"People should come and see us as soon as possible. Nationally and locally there is a lack of affordable housing. We need to ensure social housing is at the top of the agenda. There has to be an element of housing that is affordable."



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# New call centre could create 600 local jobs

■ BY ED HILL

AS MANY as 600 jobs could be coming to Ashford as a major health company reconsiders plans to locate a new call centre.

AXA PPP Healthcare is one of the country's largest providers of private medical insurance. The company announced plans to build a 42,000 sq ft call centre at Repton Park in May last year, bringing up to 600 jobs to the town. But the scheme was put on hold because of the economic downturn.

Now the company's operations director, David Clarke, says AXA is looking again at its options in Ashford.

His comments come after plans to take over a large government office building in Tunbridge Wells were dashed when it did not go on sale on the open market.

The company currently employs about 1,900 people in the west Kent town but says it intends to migrate some of its workforce to a more business-friendly location.

Mr Clarke said: "We were hoping to acquire the Land Registry building in Tunbridge Wells, which was an ideal opportunity for us to ease our current lack of space and allow for future growth.

"There was not an open sale process, however, so we have not been able to secure the building and Tunbridge Wells Council will be moving to this location.

"We have previously looked at creating a site in Ashford, in addition to our main operation in



DEVELOPMENT: AXA PP Healthcare is considering relocating to Repton Park, creating an estimated 600 jobs

Tunbridge Wells, in order to meet our growth needs and we will revisit this option if there is no opportunity in Tunbridge Wells."

The company says high house prices in the spa town also make it difficult for the company to recruit new workers.

The Repton Park application, which has already been passed by Ashford's planning committee, includes two new three-storey buildings, with landscaping and the provision of 205 parking spaces and 70 cycle spaces.

The buildings would be built to the latest

environmental standards and include solar thermal panels for hot water and tanks to collect rainwater for flushing toilets.

Repton Park includes former Templer Barracks site. It covers 50 hectares and when completed will include 1,250 new homes and facilities such as shops, a school, doctor's surgery and community centre.

A spokesman for Ashford's Future said: "We do have opportunities available should a company the size of AXA want to relocate to the town."



GOING GREEN: Members of the Green Gym

## Litter workout cleans woods

A GROUP of volunteers went out in Great Chart Wood on Monday to clear up rubbish.

The event was part of the British Trust For Conservation Volunteers Green Gym.

Figures released by Keep Britain Tidy have revealed council taxpayers fork out £500 million a year to clean the streets. Over 30 million tonnes of litter are collected from our streets each year and the UK rat population is now 60 million.

Peter Walkden, one of the leaders of the Green Gym project, said: "Ashford has its fair share of litter problems, but thanks to the Ashford Green Gym we have people prepared to do something about it."

The volunteers where provided with tools and bags at the Singleton Environment Centre.

Mr Walkden added: "Working together like this creates a sense of community."

For more information about the Green Gym, contact Peter Walkden on 01233 666519.

## Brave Kitkat needs a caring new home

STAFF at the Eureka Veterinary Centre have come to the aid of an unfortunate puss called Kitkat.

The 18-month-old black cat was hit by a car and suffered serious injuries. The encounter left him with a broken front leg and injuries to his chest and lungs.

The brave moggy was missing for four days after the accident but managed to make his own way home.

After being stabilized at an emergency clinic overnight, he was taken to the veterinary centre at Trinity Road for further treatment.

A spokesman for the vets said: "Unfortunately, his owner could not afford the necessary fracture repair treatment and Kitkat's life was hanging in the balance."

"Normally, the only option we would have would be to put him to sleep. We decided that this fantastic cat deserved another chance in life and we took responsibility for him."

Some money has been put forward for the animal's vital surgery but staff are looking for more donations, and a person willing to be his new owner.

The spokesman added: "Without more help and surgery Kitkat will be in constant pain and we will be left with no option other than to



LUCKY: Emergency surgery saved Kitkat's life

## No-show benefit cheat is fined

A BENEFIT fraudster has been fined after failing to attend court.

David Mallett, 34, formerly of Brookfield Road, had worked for four months without telling the council and Department of Work and Pensions his circumstances had changed. He was overpaid more than £1,000.

However, Mallett had been invited to attend interviews with Ashford council to discuss the situation on several occasions but failed to turn up.

A council spokesman said: "Mr Mallett failed to attend court when required, which resulted in his arrest."

Because of the relatively low levels of overpayment, Mallett could have received a lesser penalty but magistrates took a serious view of his failure to attend interviews and court.

He was fined £215 and ordered to pay costs of £600. He must also repay £973.96 of Housing Benefit and £229.94 of Council Tax Benefit.

## New car park plans cause controversy

QUADRANT Estates, which is involved in the development the Eureka Business Park, wants to build a 300-space car park close to new office buildings.

The company says providing parking will alleviate the problems of workers at the Northdown and Northdown two buildings using nearby roads.

The plans are backed by the parish council.

However, the Sandyhurst Residents' Association has objected to the plans because the park would be on the site of a current public footpath.

There have also been concerns that if parking charges are too high it will deter workers from using the car park.

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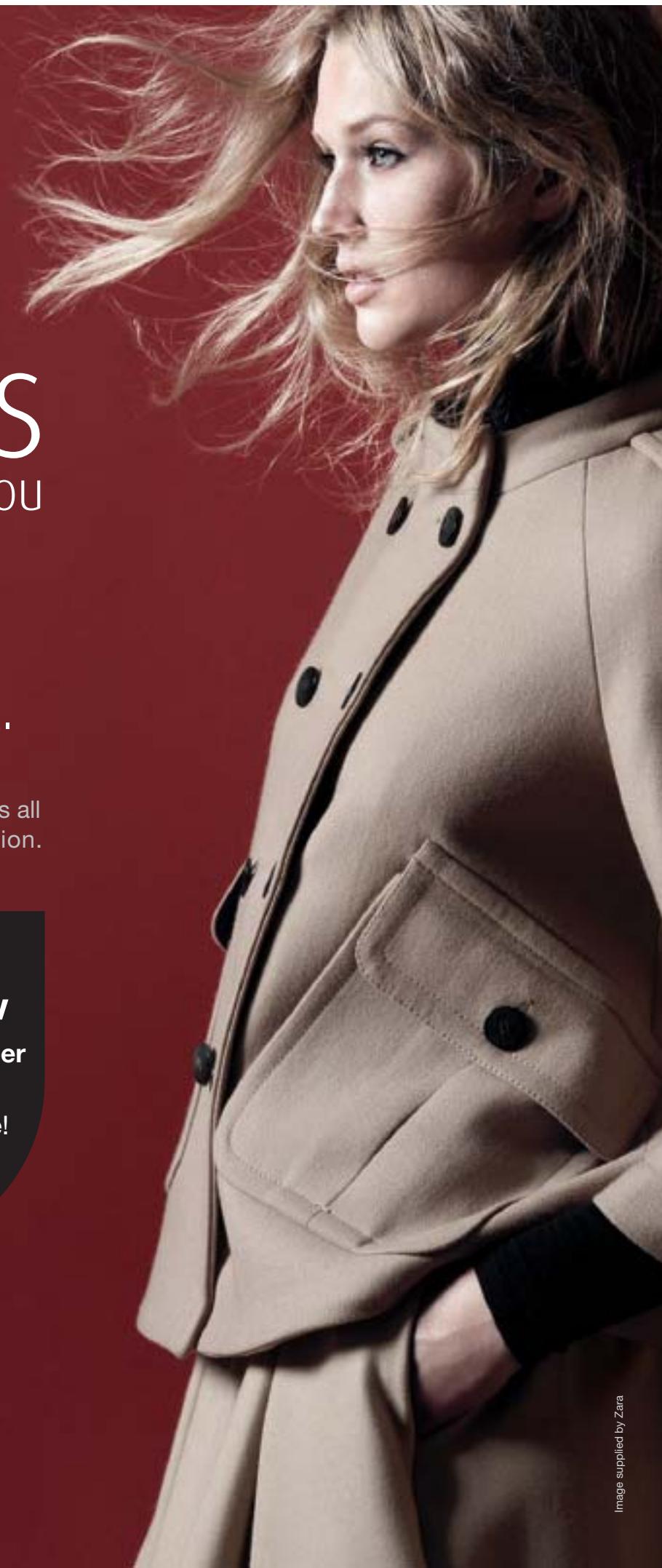
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**CONSULTATION:** The plan for housing on Chilmington Green will go ahead in spite of objections, says the council

# Homes plan may be reduced, says council leader

THE council says it will press ahead with the development of Chilmington Green despite objections, but it looks like the number of houses will be cut.

Leader of the council, Paul Bartlett said: "We will probably see 5,000 houses rather than the predicted 7,000 to accommodate the improved design.

"We are consulting on the detailed layout of the planning of the site to try and understand what the people who will be affected would like to see."

A consortium of developers is already signed up, ready to start building.

Head of planning Richard Alderton said Chilmington had been part of the town's house building plans for a long time. He said the coalition government's policy meant Ashford did not have to chase unrealistic housing targets.

"Our aim remains to make Chilmington Green a thriving, sustainable community based around a High Street with attractive homes in easy reach of parks and open spaces, shops and community facilities, as well as excellent public transport connections to the town centre," he said.

"We will continue to work closely with local people to design this community in a way that sees the best of the area's heritage, land-

■ BY ED HILL

scape and ecological assets protected."

But a leading campaigner against the development, Max Frohnsdorff, said local opposition had been continually ignored.

He said: "The 'consultations' have wilfully overlooked the fact that 2,000 people, including 90 per cent of the tiny local population, have put their names to a petition opposing the principle of development.

"The project has no democratic legitimacy. Ashford has not created the wealth, jobs or infrastructure needed to sustain its growth."

Mr Frohnsdorff said the loss of the countryside for housing was appalling.

He said: "The reason Ashford council is pushing forward an enormous green field project is because it is easier and more profitable to concrete over the countryside than regenerate brown fields in the town centre.

"The coalition government has scrapped the South East Development Plan and devolved planning to borough councils.

"If it is Ashford council's own desire that Ashford should be a growth town, then it must come clean and say so."

"Ashford does not have to meet the pre-recession building targets of a government that is no longer in office. The foundations upon which the principle of development was established no longer exist or apply."

## Tennis club celebrates new courts

TWO new tennis courts have been opened at Wye Tennis Club.

The floodlit facilities have been built thanks to a £40,000 grant from the Lawn Tennis Association and Sport England.

After a tournament to celebrate the new courts were officially opened by Andrew Wickham, Kent County Councillor for Ashford Rural East, pictured right.

The project was supported by Wye Parish Council with additional contributions from Ashford Borough Council, Kent Community and local tennis enthusiast Frank Brake.

The new courts will strengthen the club's link with Wye Primary School, which involves offering free coaching sessions to more than 140 pupils a week.

Cllr Wickham said: "The opening of the new facilities will help increase access to



tennis for the whole community. Anyone can play – all you need is a pair of trainers and a racket and ball, which you can borrow from the club.

"I commend Graham Sutherland and his team in driving the club forward, in particular their involvement in encouraging more young children to take up the sport."

## yourashford NEWS IN BRIEF

### Golfers' boost to charity

GOLFERS at Chart Hills golf club in Biddenden have raised more than £11,500 for the Alzheimer's Society.

Brian Farmer and Josephine Baughan, last year's club captains handed over a cheque to Ed Charles, South East fundraising manager for the society.

Mr Charles said: "This amount will make a huge difference in the lives of people suffering from the disease and those that care for them.

"There are 750,000 people in the UK with some form of dementia. By 2025 this will have grown to more than a million, and it's not just a disease that affects the elderly. Currently, over 16,000 younger people have some form of the disease so the likelihood is that someone you know will be affected by dementia at some point in your life."

For more information go to the website [www.alzheimers.org.uk](http://www.alzheimers.org.uk)

### Loyalty card for residents

ASHFORD Town Centre Partnership has launched a loyalty card scheme.

Ashford Best is designed to give residents incentives to make Ashford a better place to do their shopping and business.

Viv Kenny, from the town partnership, said: "The scheme aims to encourage residents to make the most of the town's shops and businesses. All traders need to do is come up with special offers and discounts that will encourage business for you, and we will make sure it reaches as many homes as possible."

Residents can also encourage their favourite shops to sign up. To find out how, email [info@ashfordtcp.co.uk](mailto:info@ashfordtcp.co.uk)

### Sign up to learn new skill

THE adult education centre in Upper Queens Road has spaces left on some courses.

The subjects available are felting, active living, climbing taster, Italian 2 (accredited), German 2 (accredited), tai chi, yoga, teaching assistant certificate level 2, drawing and painting (intermediate), life drawing and painting (studio), GCE textiles A2 level.

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## Councils to have more say on laws

THE Government is introducing new legislation to allow councils to create and abolish byelaws.

The new act will mean local authorities can get rid of old antiquated regulations which are no longer relevant.

Currently Ashford has ten byelaws. Most of the more bizarre ones have already been abolished and the remaining examples relate to issues such as public health. One example prevents roller skating and skateboarding in Stanhope Square.

The Government says the main purpose of the new legislation is to allow councils to react to issues raised by its residents without having to get it approval from central government.

Local Government Minister Grant Shapps said it was a way in which power can be given back to people.

He urged them to contact councils if they had a particular issue in their area.

Cllr Paul Bartlett, leader of the council, said: "Ashford Borough Council welcomes any Government initiative which makes it easier to regulate issues that can be a nuisance to local people and therefore improve the lives of residents in our communities and neighbourhoods."

## Cricket correction

IN last week's Yourashford we featured Kennington Junior Cricket Club's awards day. We would like to make clear the club caters for children in school years 4 to 11.

Any youngsters who would like to get involved can contact John Cunningham on 01233 631672.

# Pilot scheme makes saving energy easy



**MAKING IT EASY:** Experts offered advice about energy saving whilst also providing a number of helpful gadgets

■ BY ED HILL

ASHFORD's Future estimates 40,000 baths of water have been saved by a sustainability scheme in Kennington and Bybrook.

The pilot project, which also gave residents free advice on how save energy, took place between March and August this year.

As part of the scheme 451 homes signed up for a visit from an energy and water expert, 2,000 energy saving gadgets were also given away free, including energy monitors, chimney balloons, tap aerators and reflective radiator panels.

The project is part of the town's carbon offsetting scheme. It is aimed specifically at older properties that are less energy efficient.

On average each home will make a saving of £75 pounds on their utility bills which equates to powering 27 homes in a year.

Laurienne Tibbles, Ashford's Future sustainability manager, said: "I am sure residents will start to see the difference a few very simple efficiency measure have on their energy and water bills.

"Ashford is in a water-stressed area, and the

likely future increases in gas and electricity prices might also add to pressure on household budgets."

Experts also advised on installing cavity wall insulation, improving central heating systems, repairing leaks and applying for energy saving grants.

It is hoped the scheme will be rolled out across the rest of the town in the future.

Chris Jones, a mother of two from Kennington, said: "The electricity monitor is a fantastic tool for helping the kids understand how much electricity they are using, as you can't normally see electricity."

"We are having fun comparing how much electricity we use, and my daughter is now timed when she's got the hair straighteners on."

The scheme was also backed by Kent County Council, the Environment Agency and Ashford council. The advisors came from the environmental agency CEN (Creative Environmental Networks).

Laurienne Tibbles added: "As the town grows, we must ensure it does so sustainably, and any advice or support we can give to help residents save energy, water, and money will benefit the town and its people long into the future."

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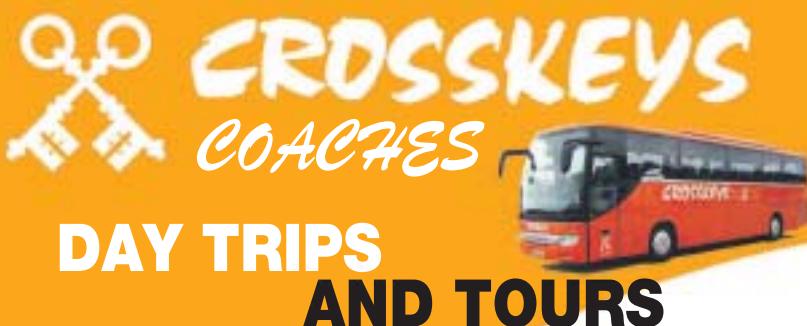


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Friday 24th	Bressingham Steam Museum, Nr Diss, Norfolk	£34.00
Wednesday 29th	Historique 39-45 Ambleteuse Museum	£29.00
Thursday 30th	Bruges	£32.00

### October

Saturday 2nd	Arras	£28.00
Monday 4th	Afternoon Cite Europe	£14.00
Sunday 10th	Hastings & Blue Reef Aquarium	£18.50
Sunday 10th	Doctor Who Live	£56.00
Wednesday 13th	Sheffield Park & Autumn Drive	£23.00
Saturday 16th	De Panne	£20.00
Tuesday 19th	Oxford Street	£14.50
Saturday 23rd	Disney on Ice - 100 Years of Magic	£41.00
Thursday 28th	Boulogne	£24.00
Saturday 30th	Halloween Time at Disneyland Paris	£67.50

### November

Thursday 4th	MPH Motor Show Top Gear, London	£59.00
Saturday 6th	Leeds Castle Firework Spectacular	£27.00
Monday 8th	Afternoon Cite Europe	£14.00
Wednesday 10th	Brick Lane Music Hall	(SOLD OUT)
Thursday 11th	Ypres Battlefield Tour & Menin Gate	£37.00
Wednesday 17th	Lakeside or Bluewater	£16.00
Saturday 20th	Santas Magical Kingdom, The Hop Farm, Kent	£34.00
Saturday 27th	Romford Market	£16.00
Saturday 27th	Brussels Xmas Market (2 Day Break)	From £93.00
Sunday 28th	Bruges Xmas Market	£32.00
Tuesday 30th	Westfield Shopping Centre	£17.00

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# yourlocalinterview

## QUESTION & ANSWER

### JOE PASQUALE



## Q & A

The popular comedian spoke to **James Alexandre** about his upcoming tour, which visits several locations in Kent, his various hobbies and his opinion on TV talent shows, which first put him in the national spotlight

**Q** Since leaving the Jungle in *I'm a Celebrity* you have taken up quite a few hobbies – what are they?

**A** Well, I still go boxing four times a week, and of course I've got my pilot's licence, but I've now taken up running and am planning on taking part in next year's London Marathon. I'm currently running ten miles 3 or 4 times a week. I also go to the gym to work out with the pro boxers.

Boxing's a great thing, it teaches you how to deal with your aggression; let it go, and then stop. But I'm not an aggressive person at all; If I'm sparring with someone at the gym I find myself apologising to them, even though you shouldn't say 'sorry' in a boxing ring!

I have also started painting, which I haven't done since I was a kid.

**Q** You worked your way up in showbiz through working as a comic at Pontins, but you also appeared on *New Faces*. What do you think of TV talent shows?

**A** I think they're a gift, but it depends which way you look at it. Richard Holloway, the producer of *Britain's Got Talent*, was the producer of *New Faces* when I did it, and executive producer when I was doing *The Price Is Right*.

People like Richard and Simon Cowell have discovered that there are as many nutters around now as there were 20 years ago, and I was one of them, and there was just as much entertainment value in watching the auditions as the actual show.

*Britain's Got Talent* isn't that different from *New Faces* or *Opportunity Knocks*, in that they turn it round and show you the audition process.

If you put yourself up for these talent shows, you know what you're doing, and everyone wants their 15 minutes of fame.

**Q** Do you still like touring?

**A** I love the gigs, but the travelling is horrendous. We were playing Dudley, which is a two-and-a-half hour drive from my house, but which took 11 hours after we got stuck on the M25.

The travelling and hotels can be a nightmare – you are up until 2am to drive to the next gig, which is always great, but the travelling there isn't.

**Q** Who are your big comedy influences?

**A** I was lucky enough to know Bob Monkhouse, and was close to him at the end. He was a great influence in my life and my attitude to the business. He was a gentleman, with not a bad word to say about anyone. I did *New Faces*, and he asked me around and helped me get on to other shows. Like him, I'd rather be liked.

I also like Steve Martin; he was the first to do that random, anarchic kind of comedy, and a genius at stand-up, and then packed it in.

**Q** But you still enjoy performing...

**A** Yes, and if you don't, you have to remind yourself why you came into the business in the first place – the answer should never be for the money, but just for the job. Nobody ever starts doing it just for the money; I think there must be something wrong with comics who want to get on stage and say 'please love me', what's the need that makes you want to do that?

But I intended to be an actor, really, and I did a play recently with Stephen Berkoff for two nights at the New End Theatre in Hampstead.

**Q** Tell me about the new tour?

**A** Well it's called the *ESP Tour* and it features all sorts of craziness and a bit more of the *ESP* stuff. I've always been quite intrigued by that sort of thing and the way mind readers use it – but I just take the mick out of it and people love it.

My favourite bits of the show are always the bits with the audience. To be honest, it's not something I really believe in, though.

Comedian Joe Pasquale is set to appear at Central Hall, Chatham, on October 10, before further dates on October 15 at the Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone, October 17 at the Assembly Hall, Tunbridge Wells and November 8 at the Orchard Theatre, Dartford.

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# Couple fined for neglect of dog

■ BY ED HILL

MARITAL breakdown saw a 12-year-old collie dog become so infected with fleas she was taken from her owners by RSPCA officers.

The couple at the heart of the case were Aytac Mehmet, 43, and his former wife Dawn Mehmet, 41. They had moved to their home in Ashford from London in 2007.

In July 2009 RSPCA officers visited their home and found the dog covered in fleas, with hair missing and bite marks on her rear.

She was also suffering from an eye infection.

The officers took the animal to Kingsnorth Veterinary Centre where vet Sharon Marsh concluded her condition must have been poor for at least three months.

The case revolved around whether the couple had knowingly neglected the dog. Both were charged on three counts of neglect, failure to provide adequate parasitic control, failure to provide veterinary care in respect of flea allergic dermatitis and failure to provide veterinary care for an eye condition.

Jess had been with the family since she was a seven-week-old puppy. She had been a fit and active dog until 2005 when she had an emergency hysterectomy. Since the operation she had developed a skin condition and other complications including ongoing ear infections and eye problems.

The court heard the couple's marriage had broken down in December 2008, around the last time she had been seen by Barrow Hill



ON TRIAL: Ashford Magistrates Court

vets in Ashford.

Mr Mehmet, who had regularly walked the dog, worked as a Park Ranger in Hackney and now spent little time at home since the marriage breakdown.

Mrs Mehmet's defence said she looked after the family's pets but, because of working night shifts and looking after two children,

was finding it increasingly difficult to care for the dog.

Despite this, she had tried to deal with Jess's flea problem by administering insecticide shampoos and drops with little success.

She had treated the animal with Frontline flea shampoo two days before the RSPCA inspectors arrived.

She said: "I tried to treat the fleas but they

were horrendous. When they took her away I thought she would be back the same day. I would never have agreed to sign her over to the RSPCA – it's like signing over one of my children."

The solicitor defending Mrs Mehmet, Paul Hogben, argued RSPCA officers had misled her because she had assumed they would take the dog to its regular vet. He also asked why the prosecuting officer had not contacted Barrow Hill vets to see the dog's medical records.

The bench found Mrs Mehmet guilty on two counts of neglect and Mr Mehmet of all three.

Chairman of the Bench, Paul Seward, said: "The marital split was the cause of this offence. Jess has now been out of your care for 14 months. You will not be disqualified from keeping animals in the future."

Mr Mehmet was ordered to pay £1,000 costs, Mrs Mehmet was ordered to pay £700.



HANDS ON: Godinton children get stuck in

## Charity asks schools to recreate its logo

THE Caldecott Foundation is asking schools to find creative ways to show off its logo.

Last Thursday it launched the campaign at Godinton Primary School where children worked with artist Paul Bryn Davies to come up with their version of the design.

The winning school will receive a special bench as a prize.

Teacher Laura Kirkaldie, said: "The children thoroughly enjoyed not only working with Paul, but helping a local charity that does so much for disadvantaged children."

The Charity in Smeeth cares for children who have suffered cruelty and neglect.

More information about the competition can be found at [www.thecaldecottfoundation.co.uk/sunshine](http://www.thecaldecottfoundation.co.uk/sunshine) or by calling 01303 815697.

## Council applies to create wildlife ponds

AT this week's planning committee meeting on Wednesday, members will be discussing an application to create six wildlife ponds near Park Farm.

The application is being made by the council's own environmental services department.

The land was acquired by the council as part of a planning agreement with developers when building on Park Farm began.

It is hoped the creation of the ponds will create a diverse natural environment.

The area will continue to be grazed by livestock so the soil will be disturbed, attracting insect and plant life.

A platform will be built on the edge of one of the ponds to allow access for dogs.

Two large scrapes in the ground will also be created to attract biodiversity.

Cllr Richard Honey, portfolio holder for development management said: "I cannot see any reason why this application should not receive the strong support of the planning committee."

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## BREAK TIME

### Academy's building plans now on hold

THE new John Wallis academy in South Ashford opened its doors for the first time this term.

Formerly Ashford Christ Church School, the academy has a new headteacher, uniform and funding directly from the Government.

However, the school's plans for new buildings are currently on hold after the Building Schools for the Future programme was ended by Education Secretary Michael Gove.

A spokesman for the Canterbury Diocese, the lead sponsor of the school, said: "While sponsors and the principal remain committed to the need for new and refurbished buildings, they are equally committed to ensuring students achieve their best in existing buildings."

Headteacher, John McParland, said: "Every young person should have the opportunity to learn in an environment where they are encouraged and valued."

### Bird box nesting caught on video

LAST term, children at Brook Community Primary School took part in a bird box nesting project.

As part of the scheme, children were shown how to encourage birds to nest at the school.

Now the children have made a video of how their Blue Tit 'Kevin' got on with raising her brood of chicks.

To watch the video, go to [www.brookashford.kent.sch.uk](http://www.brookashford.kent.sch.uk).

SEND your schools news and pictures to [yourashford@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:yourashford@kosmedia.co.uk). You can also upload your video clips of schools events on to [www.yourkenttv.co.uk](http://www.yourkenttv.co.uk)

■ BY ED HILL

THE Royal Horticultural Society is urging adults to get involved with their children's school garden.

The Get Your Grown-ups Growing campaign starts in October. During the scheme participating schools will hold events for parents, grandparents and guardians to improve school gardens.

The sessions are part of the society's national Campaign for School Gardening, launched in 2007. Many primary schools around Ashford have signed up for the scheme, including Phoenix, Ashford Oaks, St Mary's and St Teresa's Catholic School.

The society has sent out packs to teachers at 150 schools in the south east containing how-to guides and activity ideas, as well as invitations, seeds, posters and stickers.

Since the national campaign began, almost three million children nationwide have benefited, learning to care for the wider environment and lead healthier lifestyles.

However, many schools are still without a garden, and the RHS says the ones that do have one can greatly benefit from the support of the local community.

One grandfather, Mick Morley, who took part in an event last year, said: "All the adults who came along pitched in and planted vegetables, put up a greenhouse and installed bat boxes.

"It was amazing what a difference we made in a relatively short time. It made me want to help out on a regular basis. I go over a few times a week now and help the kids water plants, take cuttings and plant seeds."



SEEDS OF SUCCESS: RHS's Get Your Grown-ups Growing campaign aims to get adults involved with school gardens

Each school taking part has the opportunity to win a £900 patio glasshouse.

Sue Biggs, director general at the RHS, said: "Now that teachers are starting to plan the activities, it is important to remember that to make the events a real success they will need the support of local adults, not just mums and dads but grandparents, family friends, local

gardening enthusiasts and nearby businesses. We'd urge everyone to get in touch with their local school, find out if they're holding an event, and get the date in their diary."

There is still time to sign up for the initiative. Teachers who wish to sign their school up should visit [www.rhs.org.uk/gygg](http://www.rhs.org.uk/gygg) for further information.

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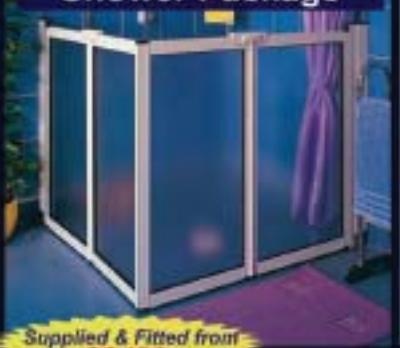
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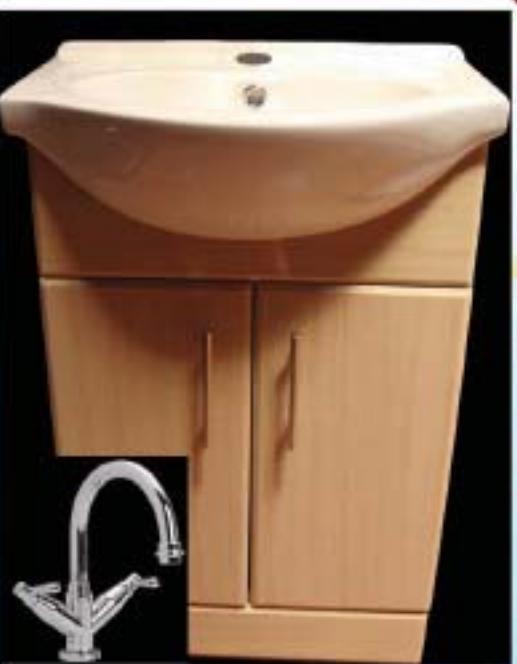
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# yourletters

## YOUR LETTERS



### Council mayoral vote was news to many

One response out of 52,000... the council needs to try harder to engage people as whatever they are doing at the moment isn't working.

I can't recall ever seeing anything about this vote, but then I don't read the council newsletter, which is simply self-serving propaganda in my opinion. What is the point of reading something produced by the organisation it is about? It's only going to be full of stuff they want us to hear, not the stuff that matters to people.

So save us some money Ashford council, and scrap Voice, or whatever it's called. It's not working.

Jenny Bishop, South Ashford

- Why did only one person respond? Because only one person cares? Nothing ever changes no matter who is in power and how they are voted into it.

Maybe a mayor would have provided the shake-up Ashford so desperately needs, but I didn't even know we were meant to be voting for one. Good work Ashford council.

Name and address withheld

- It is a good thing the council decided not to go for an elected "Boris-style" mayor. I didn't respond to the question because I didn't want the system to change.

An elected mayor means there is too much power in the hands of one person.

The system we have at the moment at least means there are some checks and balances despite the fact Ashford council is nearly all Tory.

Martin Hopkins, Ashford

### Game 'superfood' in the shooting season

October 1 heralds the official start of the pheasant shooting season. The popularity of game has been increasing over recent years and independent market researcher Mintel says annual sales should reach more than £84 million by next year.

The UK's largest shooting organisation, the British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC) runs an innovative game promotion campaign which we have extended this year due to popular demand. Watch out for events taking place

# yourblogger

The new Government's planned education shake-up is welcome, says Gary Wright...



NOW the exam celebrations are over and students are settling down to a new academic year; it's time for a little reflection.

I have already written extensively about the A-level mania that grips this country as our 18-year-olds are propelled through the system towards a university place, a potentially useless degree and a £20,000 debt.

So too our GCSE system, where schools' success is judged by the number of pupils who attain five or more grade Cs or above in any old subject, even though a mere five grade C GCSEs don't get the pupil anywhere.

The class of 2010 was, according to educationalists, another bumper year for even better qualifications, both at GCSE and A-level.

So, now that the back-patting is over, I thought it worth a closer look at the facts behind the euphoria.

Academic qualifications in core subjects have fallen. Fact. Non-academic qualifications were allowed parity with academic GCSEs from 2004, thanks to Blair's mob. So 'computer skills', 'sports leadership' and certificates of 'personal effectiveness' were given parity with traditional subjects on those all-important league tables.

Understandably, the average teenager chose those easy subjects over science, history and languages. So too the schools, with that ever watchful eye on league tables. Figures show an amazing 2,300 per cent rise in the number of pupils choosing non-academic qualifications in six years.

Last year, 64,000 16-year-olds took a 'first award in IT', seen as equivalent to a GCSE, but taking a lot less time to teach. Did these schools push their students to take it

just to boost their league table points? Oh, I think so. Meanwhile 44,000 fewer children took a science or an additional science compared with the previous year. And French dropped out of the top ten GCSEs for the first time (Labour decided it was no longer compulsory for 14 to 16-year-olds in 2004).

Today, only 15 per cent of our 16-year-olds achieved what can be described as good GCSE results in English, maths, science, foreign languages and humanities.

So three cheers for our new leaders, who have decided to look again. With the launch of the English Baccalaureate from next year, pupils will be able to gain it only by getting C or above in five subjects including English literature, maths, a science, a foreign language and one humanity (including history, geography, art or music).

So employers will really understand the academic ability of youngsters (universities won't care, so long as they can keep taking at least £3,000 a year).

Asian countries are outstripping the UK in scientific learning and education minister Michael Gove says he is determined to "introduce more young people to the best that has been thought and written".

It signals an end to school league tables and a simple recognition of success in core subjects. We will have the White Paper this autumn and can expect a lot of heckling from Labour and heads who fear they won't be able to find enough teachers of the right calibre to match their successes with easy GCSEs.

I share the latter fear, too, but commend the return to proper education, which stops the slide toward 'qualifications', which are no such thing.

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the editor, Gareth Arnold, on 01303 817025 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Ashford blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to [www.yourashford.co.uk](http://www.yourashford.co.uk).

as part of BASC's National Taste of Game Fortnight, from November 6-20. Shoot providers spend £250 million a year on conservation and shooting is involved in the management of two-thirds of the rural land area. For information, visit [www.gameson.org.uk](http://www.gameson.org.uk).

Debbie Collins, British Association for Shooting and Conservation

### Nothing to stop lad looking at options



Yourblogger Gary Wright talks a lot of sense, but he misses one point.

While schools may not allow

colleges to attempt to spirit away their funding, there is presumably no ban on 15/16 year-olds having a look for themselves at what colleges have to offer.

I can't believe that no-one, including the lad's parents, had no idea at all that he might not do very well at maths, so why weren't they looking at the options?

It's too easy to let the school lead the way. Let's face it, your own assertion that five GCSEs ain't up to much is a good indication of how academic you need to be to get a D in maths; if that's you, then get out there and look at the vocational courses on offer elsewhere.

Perhaps this is a chance for KoS

to increase its advertising revenue by inviting the colleges to make sure they reach potential pupils in a different way.

M Triggs, comment on web blog

It's easy to blame the parents. Of course options are available and parents educate their children themselves. However, schools have a duty of care to their students and this means they should be accessible by all relevant organisations.

I would support proper careers advice through secondary schools and an open-door policy rather than what is currently in place.

Secondary schools need to realise they are dealing with individuals not numbers.

Sue Cross, comment on web blog

It's always the responsibility of the parents when it suits the school.

Schools have a duty of care. After all, we entrust them with a very special commodity, don't we?

Mrs S Payne, comment on web blog

The major problem is that most teachers have only an academic background. In other words, been to school, been to college and back to school, and have no relationship to the workplace in the real world and only recognise an academic qualification as being worthy as this the route they have taken.

A young man from a grammar school came to us on work experience and talking to him it came out in conversation that a

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children and nature. People were asked which of 12 outdoor experiences they remembered having as a child.

For men it was climbing trees (80 per cent), building a camp or den (77), and collecting and playing conkers (75). For women it was making a daisy chain (80 per cent), feeding the birds (67) and collecting and playing conkers (66).

However, the research showed that significantly fewer 15 to 34-year-olds had these kinds of childhood experiences compared with those aged over 55.

To many, it would seem obvious that a crucial part of childhood is exploring the world around you.

Unfortunately, this is far from the case and the amount of time and contact children are having with nature is declining.

Growing evidence shows the diverse and positive impacts of contact with nature on a child's education, health, well-being and social skills – as well as the benefits to the environment. At the same time there has been a decline in these opportunities with negative consequences for children, families and society.

The RSPB's Dungeness reserve is a great place for children to go and experience the outdoors. It welcomes 4,500 pupils annually and has been awarded the national Learning Outside the Classroom quality badge.

School groups can take part in the Living Classrooms programme with an exciting range of activities designed to work with the national curriculum in science and geography. The activities also link to literacy, numeracy, IT, citizenship and thinking skills.

Children can also join the Wildlife Explorer group which meets monthly. Members discover more about the reserve and all the creatures that live there as well as meeting the wardens and helping with conservation.

The RSPB has more than a 40-year history in getting children outdoors and is committed to continuing to play our part.

We also need government and schools to recognise the crucial role the public believes they should play in enabling all children to experience, enjoy and benefit from contact with the natural environment.

There is overwhelming support for getting every child outdoors, with 92 per cent of the public agreeing that experiences of nature are still important to children today. A study by Ofsted found schools relied heavily on financial contributions from parents and carers to meet the costs of school trips and visits.

The RSPB is concerned that children from poorer backgrounds miss out on these experiences.

We believe all children should have an equal opportunity to experience nature.

More than 290,000 people have signed the RSPB's Letter to the Future, which calls on greater investment in nature and inspiring children to protect it.

Sophie McCallum, RSPB

### Youngsters miss out on natural contact

Kent's younger generation is missing out on the childhood experiences of nature their parents and grandparents enjoyed, according to research by the RSPB.

It marks the launch of Every Child Outdoors, the RSPB's report into the relationship between

# Utopia ideal for a night of fine wine and cuisine

■ BY GARY WRIGHT

VIP guests and diners packed the Utopia wine bar and restaurant in Ashford last week for the launch a new three-courses for £10.

But this was not a theme-pub style meal-deal offer, this was gourmet food at a spectacular price.

Utopia wine bar and restaurant in Bank Street has relaunched its popular £10 menu.

At a VIP launch night this week, the re-launched menu, with a few new twists, was revealed, proving to be just as much of a hit among diners, as ever.

Thai mussels with lemongrass and chilli, duck cottage pie and Dan's upside down cheesecake were some of the dishes offered on the first evening, demonstrating chef and co-owner Steve Biggs creative talents.

The three-course menu will run every Thursday evening and will feature a choice of three starters, and three main courses – each with a meat dish, a fish dish and a vegetarian option.

Three choices of dessert follow and there's almost always a highly calorific chocolate treat to make sure the chocoholics are happy! In keeping with the philosophy of the restaurant, the menu will be packed full of seasonal, locally-sourced ingredients and produce and will change on a three-weekly basis.



**GOURMET DINING:** Utopia wine bar and restaurant invited guests to try out its new menu at last week's relaunch

Utopia's manager, Steve Biggs, said: "I am really pleased to be bringing this menu back – it was so popular when we offered it before."

"As you would expect, we were often fully booked on these evenings, creating a buzzing atmosphere throughout the bar and restaurant and I am looking forward to our customers being offered that again."

"The relaunch evening went down a storm, with our guests enjoying the kind of experience they have come to expect from Utopia – creative, tasty, locally sourced dishes, exceptional service

and an ambiance to rival some of the top London restaurants. We look forward to welcoming both our regular and many new customers to Utopia on our £10 Thursday evenings."

Utopia is open Wednesday to Saturday for restaurant meals, bar meals, and drinks along with weekly entertainment in the form of ladies' nights, comedy performances and wine evenings. The bar and restaurant also offers discounts to local businesses.

Visit [www.utopia-restaurant.co.uk](http://www.utopia-restaurant.co.uk) for more information.

## Young musicians' chance at festival

THE Equator music festival has announced it will be holding a competition for young musicians across the county.

The semi finals will be held in front of a live audience at Norton Knatchbull School in Ashford.

To enter organisers are asking people to submit recordings no longer than five minutes on CD, DVD or MP3 formats.

The competition is open to soloists, instrumentalists, singers, and music groups under the age of 18 and school groups, performing any genre of music.

Closing date for entries is October 10, and the semi-final will be held on October 22.

The address to send entries to is: Equator Kent Music Talent Competition, c/o ShivaNova, Peregrine, Grange Road, St Michaels, Tenterden, TN30 6TJ. Email entries to: [admin@shivanova.co.uk](mailto:admin@shivanova.co.uk)

Please include the names of the artist or group, all contact details and the style of music being played.

## Prison sentence for cannabis cultivator

A CANNABIS farmer has been jailed after growing more than £6,000 worth of the drug.

John Auton of Quarry View, Singleton was sentenced to 15 months imprisonment at Canterbury Crown Court.

Auton's home was searched by the police neighbourhood task team. It was discovered he had been growing the class B drug at his garage.

Twenty mature plants were found in the garage along with other smaller plants that had been cultivated in the loft.

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# Kent beauty Gemma gets pulses racing in Dorset in new comedy

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CINEMA/TELEVISION 26

MUSIC/TRAVEL 27

**DAY & NIGHT****Auditions for panto**

EXPERIENCED performers are being sought for the pantomime at the Granville Theatre in Ramsgate.

The theatre is looking for lead actors and chorus members aged over 18, and younger cast members aged from eight to 18. The younger applicants can audition at the theatre at 2pm on Sunday.

To register email Trudi Kingham on [t.kingham1@btinternet.com](mailto:t.kingham1@btinternet.com) or call 01843 855000.

**Poets perform to music**

SOME of the UK's most talented poets will be reciting their verse at the Horsebridge Centre in Whitstable.

Tongue Tied takes place at 7.30pm on Saturday, with music from DJ Moogaloo.

Tickets cost £8/£6. To book call 01227 281174. Find out more at [www.horsebridge-centre.org.uk](http://www.horsebridge-centre.org.uk).

**Relationships explored**

THE strange nature of relationships is explored in comic and sometimes touching fashion in Partners in Crime.

The hour-long monologue features a diverse mix of songs by Joni Mitchell and many others.

Partners in Crime can be seen at the Tom Thumb Theatre in Cliftonville at 8.30pm on Saturday. Tickets cost £10/£8. To book call 01843 221791 or visit [www.tomthumbtheatre.co.uk](http://www.tomthumbtheatre.co.uk).

**Maritime theme to folk**

FIFTY performers are coming together this week to take part in the Deal Maritime Folk Festival.

Running from Thursday to Sunday, the event takes place across 10 venues and there will be lots of folk entertainment.

For full listings visit [www.dealmaritimefolkfestival.org.uk](http://www.dealmaritimefolkfestival.org.uk).

**Viola player performs**

RISING viola star Robin Ashwell will be performing at Oare String Orchestra's concert in Faversham next week.

His achievements include being principal viola of the European Union Baroque Orchestra and playing with the BBC Symphony Orchestra.

The concert is at the Alexander Centre at 7.30pm on Saturday, September 25. Tickets cost £10 from Faversham Information Centre.

**Pianist to open festival**

PIANIST Annabelle Lawson opens the Deal Festival of Music and Arts' autumn concert series at 7.30pm on Friday.

Lawson's recital includes works by Bartok, Bach, Brahms, Falla, Ginastera and more at Deal Town Hall at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £10 and discounts are available for more than one concert. To book call The Sounds House on 01304 381134.

**Author discusses book**

MEET the author of Major Pettigrew's Last Stand when she visits Dover on Monday.

Helen Simonson will be talking about her quirky novel at Dover Library Theatre at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £2. To book your seat call 01304 204241.

# Orchestra sails in to honour Chopin

**DFDS SEAWAYS UNDER THE FLAG OF CHOPIN**

Thursday, September 16,  
Dover Harbour and Dover Town Hall



SOME special musical guests will be arriving in Kent in spectacular style tomorrow.

To mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of composer Chopin, the Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra is paying a visit to Dover to perform a special concert. But they will be travelling across the seas in eye-catching fashion, aboard Dar Mlodziezy.

The three-mast frigate is a Polish sailing training vessel designed by Zygmunt Choren and launched at the Gdansk Shipyard in 1982.

During the day, visitors will be able to visit the ship, which was built for around the world trips and can stay at sea for up to 60 days. The ship won the 2006 World Cup regatta around Bornholm and now it is bringing the orchestra to Dover, as part of a series of celebratory concerts around Europe.

The orchestra is performing at Copenhagen, Gothenburg, Oslo and Boulogne-sur-Mer, as well as Dover.

The voyage, dubbed DFDS Seaways Under the Flag of Chopin, has been arranged in partnership with the Embassy of the Republic of Poland and the Polish Cultural Institute. It is also supported by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, Fryderyk Chopin Institute in Warsaw and Adam Mickiewicz Institute in Warsaw.

Thursday's journey across the sea will culminate in a performance by the orchestra at Dover Town Hall at 7pm on Thursday.

Conducted by Jacek Kasprzyk, the concert will feature rising soloist Ewa Kupiec and includes some music which is appropriate for the seaside setting. The programme also includes Chopin's Fantasy on Polish Airs and Andante Spianato and Grand Polonaise in E flat major.

Last year the orchestra played to a sell-out audience at Canterbury Cathedral, when Krzysztof Penderecki conducted his acclaimed St Luke Passion as part of the Sounds New Contemporary Music Festival.

Considered to be Poland's leading orchestra, it also acts as a cultural ambassador on the international art scene.

Born in a village in the Duchy of Warsaw in 1810, Chopin soon revealed himself to be a child prodigy pianist and composer. His education was completed in the city, but following the November 1830 uprising, he became part of the Polish Great Emigration when he moved to Paris.

He gave few public performances during his career, supporting himself by teaching and composing. For 10 years he shared a tempestuous relationship with female French writer, George Sand and their affair has been the focus of much interest, including a theatre show called The Last Ballade.



When Chopin first met Sand, she was the mistress of his friend, fellow composer Franz Liszt and he took an immediate dislike to her. But they later fell in love and their relationship ended just two years before his death.

His technically-demanding works are still extremely popular today, for although they are challenging, they also express great emotion and subtle nuances. Not only did he make major innovations to certain musical tech-

niques, he also invented the musical form known as the instrumental ballade.

Despite his genius, Chopin was not destined to live to an old age. Throughout his life he suffered from health problems and he died in Paris in October 1849, aged just 39.

Tickets for the concert cost £10/£8 and £25 for families of two adults and two children. To book visit the Visitors Information Office in Biggin Street, Dover or call 01304 205108.



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New therapists have just been taken on and the treatment list expanded, to offer even more choice for clients who want to look and feel their very best.

A Pamper Day or Spa Day commences with a light continental breakfast and later a two-course lunch in The Pavilion Restaurant.

Guests also have use of Silks Relaxation Lounge, where complimentary tea, coffee and chilled water are freely available whilst chilling out in tranquil surroundings.

Popular treatments include St Tropez Spray Tanning to top up that holiday tan, and the Universal Contour Wrap. To show off your hands, try Jessica Gelation Nails, which last for two to three weeks.

Other recently introduced treats include the Lava Shell Massage, including the non-invasive colour cleanse, Lava Shell Tummy Massage.

The salon will also be offering botox treatments very soon.

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## THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL

Saturday, September 18, and Sunday, September 19  
Memorial Theatre, Broadstairs

CRIME, greed and stupidity all feature in a double bill of plays under the banner, The Root of All Evil.

Katapult Productions presents the world premiere of the double bill at the Sarah Thorne Theatre Club, with both plays representing the great noir tradition. Filled with wise-cracking dialogue and money, retribution is always just around the corner in both stories.

American writer Rich Rubin has created a Tarantino-style comedy thriller in *Maid/Men*, set in a seedy motel room where

money and greed are about to open sizeable can of worms.

In David Barry's comedy drama, *A Friend of Ronnie's*, the past is about to catch up with an unfortunate pal of Great Train Robber Ronnie Biggs, 20 years after the crime.

Performances start at 7.30pm and tickets cost £10.50 for club members and £12.50 for non-members, who must book at least 24 hours in advance.

To book tickets, call 0845 262 6263 or email [info@sarahthorne-theatreclub.co.uk](mailto:info@sarahthorne-theatreclub.co.uk) to reserve seats.



## FARMING AND COUNTRY FESTIVAL

Saturday, September 18, and Sunday, September 19,  
Farming World, Boughton

THE role of heavy horses in Kent farm life can be seen at Farming World's Farming and Country Festival.

This weekend, visitors can see the labour-intensive ways in which land was farmed 100 years ago. Heavy horses will demonstrate their power when they appear in the main arena on Saturday and plough the fields on Sunday, while showing off their elegant side in the heavy horse musical ride at the end of both days.

Vintage tractors and machinery can be seen throughout the

weekend, including a working Davidson Threshing Machine. Other attractions include bird of prey displays, parades by Blean Beagles, ferret racing and rural craft experts at work. There will be plenty of crafts to observe and to experience.

Over the last 20 years, the festival has raised more than £61,000 for good causes, and this year all proceeds will be donated to the Demelza House children's hospice in Sittingbourne.

To find out more, call 01227 751144 or visit [www.farming-world.co.uk](http://www.farming-world.co.uk).

## HG WELLS FESTIVAL

Friday, September 17, to Sunday, September 19  
The Grand, Folkestone

TWO celebrity guests will help to celebrate a great author's legacy at the second HG Wells Festival.

Newsreader Peter Sissons and novelist Sandra Howard, wife of former Conservative Party leader Michael Howard, will be making appearances at the festival. Budding authors have entered the £1,000 short story competition and the awards will be presented on the Sunday.

The theme of this year's festival will be two books HG Wells wrote while living in Sandgate 100 years ago: *Kipps* and *The History of Mr Polly*. The author's grandson, Professor Dominic Wells, will be taking part in the festival dinner and discussion on Saturday evening.

Events include a free opening reception with Wells' biographer, Michael Sherborne, at 6pm on Friday, and a history walk through Sandgate at 11am on Saturday. A tea party takes place from 2pm with Edwardian entertainment on the lawn.

On Sunday there is coffee with the VIPs at 11am and a buffet lunch for the short story writers and ticket holders at 12.30pm. For more details, call 01303 222222 or visit [www.wellsfestival.com](http://www.wellsfestival.com).



## MANDY WINTERS

Saturday, September 18, Granville Theatre, Ramsgate

COUNTRY singer Mandy Winters will be providing an evening of live entertainment this weekend.

Winters has toured America and Europe, winning fans with her outstanding voice and warm personality. She was born into a show business family, as her father Ronnie Winters had much success in the 50s and 60s as 'the Yodelling Cowboy' and her mother Nola was one of this country's leading sopranos.

Her daughter began her singing career at just 14, when she became lead vocalist of country band, American Brew. After several British and European tours, she was still just 17 when she embarked on a solo career.

She also won two awards at the Nebraska Country Music Festival in 1994. Winters has developed her skill at yodelling and is now possibly the best female yodeller in Europe.

She will be supported by BBC Radio Kent's Paul Harris and Paul James. The concert will be held in aid of Ramsgate and Broadstairs Sea Cadets, the Deal Pathfinders and the Granville Theatre.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £10/£9. To book call 01843 591750.



## ROBERT COHEN

Tuesday, September 21  
Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury

WORLD-renowned cellist Robert Cohen will be giving a concert to raise money for the new Marlowe Theatre.

The soloist, conductor, chamber musician and teacher made his debut at the Royal Festival Hall aged 12. Since then his sparkling career has led him to become a professor at the Royal Academy of Arts in London and at the Conservatorio della Svizzera Italiana in Lugano.

Peter Williams, chairman of the New Marlowe Theatre Development Trust, first heard Cohen play during one of the first revived Canterbury Festivals.

"It was a magical experience, full of artistry and passion and I have followed his career ever since," he said. "We are delighted and grateful that Robert has given his services to help the campaign to build the new Marlowe Theatre."

"We are very fortunate to have one of the world's greatest cellists recognise the importance of the new Marlowe Theatre, both culturally and economically, to this corner of England."

There will be a pre-performance reception at 7.15pm followed by the concert at 8pm. Tickets cost £25. Call 01227 787787 or go to [www.newmarlowetheatre.org.uk](http://www.newmarlowetheatre.org.uk).



Picture: JP MASCL

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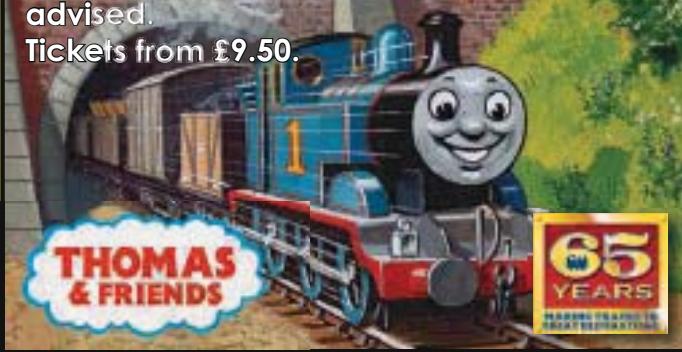
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## One to watch

**NOKIA N8** SEPTEMBER 23 will see Nokia launch its new N8. Nokia's dominance may have been overshadowed by the iPhone and all that talk of Android operating systems.

But remember, Nokia sells more phones in a month than Apple does two years, so the Finnish company knows its stuff.

The N8 has a 3.5 inch screen, all the Facebook, Twitter and multi-media apps you could want as well as a cool music player and mighty 12-megapixel camera. And Pamela Anderson is doing the ads... Oh yes, the new N8 makes phone calls too.

Expected cost £480 sim free, contract around £30 a month.



## Make your Apple last longer

### MOPHIE JUICE PACK AIR

ANYONE who owns an iPhone knows the only real problem is its battery that doesn't last a day without recharging.

Apple fans will say it's because the iPhone does so much that you use it for everything: critics of the iconic phone say it's overpriced and Apple builds in obsolescence by sealing the battery inside.

So while other phones offer the option of carrying another fully charged battery to be truly mobile, Apple owners need to consider options like the Mophie Juice Pack Air.

It is in fact a really neat piece of kit, the latest from a manufacturer which has shown you can have longer life and good looks. It doubles your battery life and acts as protective cover.

There are two versions, one for the iPhone and the other for the iPod touch both around £60.

Running Wi-Fi, GPS and 3G on the iPhone 3G with the Juice Pack Air attached will yield about two full days of heavy use.

And similarly for the iPod touch we tested the juice pack on a 32gb version. Using it flat out for games, internet and music we saw 12 hours which is double what the iPod touch normally managed.

The only disadvantage is while the case is on the loudspeaker doesn't work so you need headphones. And in place of the Apple lead you get a mini USB which can charge from your computer port or with common adapter plugs.

For my 13-year-old son it transformed his experience especially when we went on holiday. His 8gb Touch never went flat so long and he remembered to charge it when not in use. He also loved the slightly larger case.

First the iPod charged, then the juice pack. Effectively you can switch the juice pack on to recharge an ailing iPod too.

There are two groups of people who will benefit. Games addicts and iPhone users who use the full range of facilities. And I reckon that's about everyone.

**Recommended 8/10.**  
See [www.mophie.com](http://www.mophie.com)

## Why size matters to Xperia X10 users

### SONY ERICSSON XPERIA X10

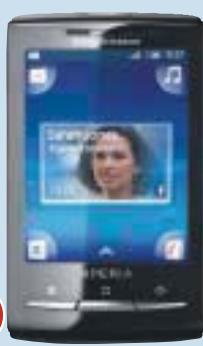
SONY Ericsson reckons the Xperia X10 is so good they even brought out a fun-size version the X10 Mini.

And this range of flagship phones is an entertaining choice with some nice software that brings social networking and media galleries together in two easily navigated streams.

The large Xperia X10 and its cigarette-box size brother, the keyboard-equipped X10 mini Pro, both look the part boasting a sleek, black body and sparkling screen.

And the phones have brains as well as beauty with powerful processors running Google's Android operating system and great cameras, with the X10 packing a whopping 8.1 megapixel shooter.

The mini is not far behind with a decent 5 megapixel offering.



Sony Ericsson has added its own features to the standard Android package, commonly called a skin.

This consists of Timescape - which brings together all your social feeds from Twitter to text messages into one media stream - and Mediascape - which does the same but for photos and video, allowing you to view albums on Facebook as well as those stored on your phone.

Timescape presents you with a smooth scrolling stream of tweets, texts and status updates, but it's pretty much just a viewer. To see the message you tap once, but to reply you have to open a separate app, be it Twitter, text messages or Facebook.

Mediascape on the other

hand is a great addition, and it is nice to have all your pictures in one place, especially displayed on the X10's brilliant screen.

The only downside is currently the phones still run an elderly version of Android.

Stuck on 'droid 1.6, users miss out on Microsoft Exchange support, a deal-breaker for many business customers, and it can only support one

Google account at a time. There are workarounds - I used an app which came bundled with the review phone called Moxier Mail. It does the job, but it's not the integrated experience it should be on a phone like the X10.



And despite the power of the hardware, you will find moments where the otherwise responsive screen drags and stutters.

But wait! News just in is that this month Sony

Ericsson will finally be updating the whole Xperia range to Android 2.1. This means Exchange support, faster Bluetooth, live wallpapers and five home screens on which to keep all your favourite Android apps.

So now really is a good time to pick up this soon-to-be-even-more powerful smartphone.

Because compared to Apple's ubiquitous iPhone, the X10 is preposterously good value. It's free on most contracts, and you can find one for £255 sim free.

Considering its capable camera, this really isn't bad for quality hardware, especially as you know the software is going to be updated in a couple of weeks.

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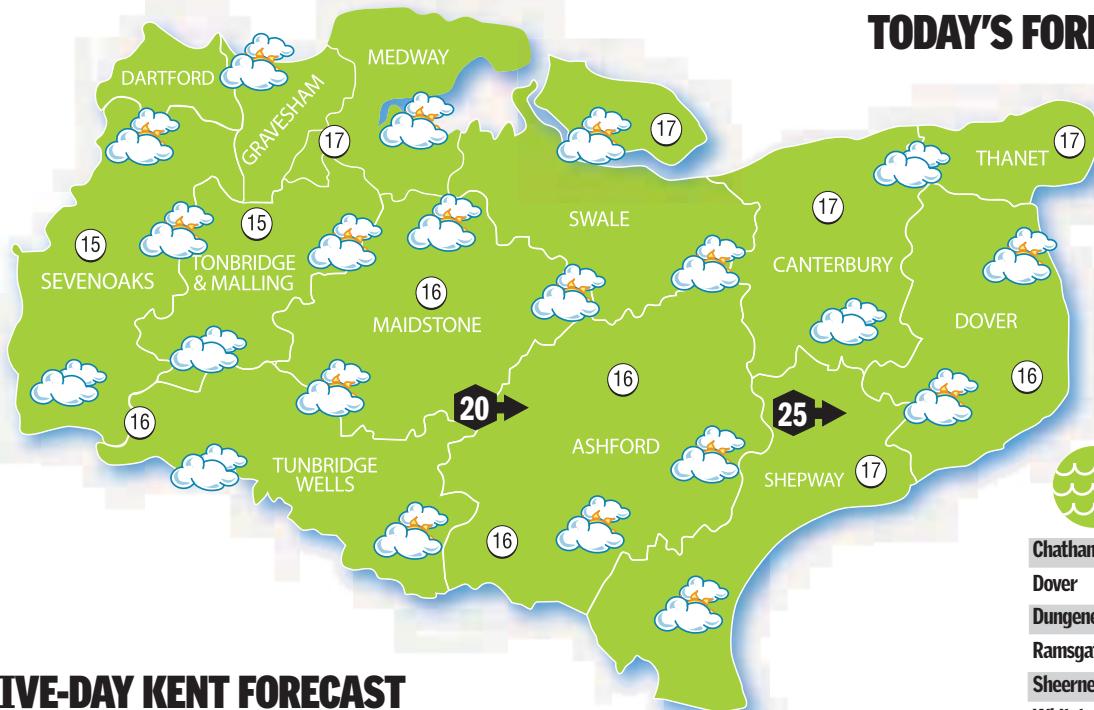
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## TODAY'S FORECAST



## AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	18°C	Madrid	29°C
Athens	25°C	New York	19°C
Barcelona	25°C	Paris	19°C
Beijing	30°C	Rome	26°C
Bombay	30°C	Sydney	22°C
Cape Town	24°C	Tenerife	26°C
Cardiff	16°C	Tokyo	32°C
Gibraltar	23°C	Vancouver	13°C
Hong Kong	31°C	Warsaw	20°C
Las Palmas	26°C	Wellington	13°C

## FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	18°C	18°C	17°C	17°C	16°C
Canterbury	20°C	18°C	17°C	16°C	16°C
Chatham	19°C	17°C	17°C	17°C	16°C
Dartford	21°C	18°C	18°C	18°C	17°C
Dover	17°C	16°C	16°C	16°C	15°C
Faversham	19°C	17°C	17°C	17°C	16°C
Folkestone	17°C	16°C	16°C	16°C	15°C
Gillingham	19°C	17°C	17°C	17°C	16°C
Gravesend	21°C	18°C	18°C	18°C	17°C
Maidstone	20°C	17°C	17°C	17°C	16°C
Ramsgate	20°C	18°C	17°C	16°C	16°C
Rochester	19°C	17°C	17°C	17°C	16°C
Sevenoaks	18°C	16°C	16°C	15°C	15°C
Sittingbourne	19°C	17°C	17°C	17°C	16°C
Tonbridge	19°C	17°C	17°C	17°C	16°C
Tun Wells	19°C	17°C	17°C	17°C	16°C

Chatham	Saturday	9:35am 4.7m	Sunday	10:54am 5.0m
Dover	Saturday	8:20am 5.3m	Sunday	9:27am 5.6m
Dungeness	Saturday	7:51am 5.8m	Sunday	9:02am 6.1m
Ramsgate	Saturday	8:50am 4.0m	Sunday	9:57am 4.3m
Sheerness	Saturday	9:23am 4.6m	Sunday	10:42am 4.9m
Whitstable	Saturday	9:31am 4.5m	Sunday	10:48am 4.7m



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# yourcompetition

## WIN! tickets to Take That tribute night

FOLLOWING the incredible success of last year's event, Ramsgate Round Table has decided to run a bigger and better tribute night at the Margate Winter Gardens on October 2.

The event features The Take That Experience, who are fast becoming the UK's premier tribute band.

This year promises to be bigger and better with the group recreate the true experience of Take That with replica costumes from the stadium tour The Circus, brilliant choreography and of course the music that everybody loves.

This superb show is packed with the hits including Back for Good, Relight My Fire, Could It Be Magic, Patience, Shine, Rule The World, Up All Night, Greatest Day and many more.

The event is being run to raise funds for Dave Lee's Happy Holidays, formed in 1994, which has since raised nearly £2 million to help send sick, disabled and underprivileged children from Kent on holidays and outings.

With the charity being run by volunteers from their own homes, the organisation is proud of the fact that there are no payments

for office rent or staff costs, so all the money raised goes to where it is needed most – the children.

Thousands of children and their families have enjoyed trips to Disneyland Paris, week-long holidays at the charity's caravans at Camber Sands, tickets to the annual pantomime at The Marlowe in Canterbury and

even a trip to Lapland for 230 people to celebrate the raising of the first £1m.

Ramsgate Round Table is an organisation set to raise charitable funds in the local area. We have raised nearly ten thousand pounds for local causes this year including BBC children in Need, Demelza house, the RNLI along with smaller donations to local scout groups, youth clubs other charitable organisations.

To find out how to get involved, visit our website at [www.ramsgateroundtable.org.uk](http://www.ramsgateroundtable.org.uk).

The prizes are ten pairs of VIP tickets to the event and to enter, simply answer this question:

*Take That's Last tour was called?*

A) The Fun Fair?

B) The Circus?

C) The Park?

Send your entry on a postcard along with



your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Take That experience Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

The closing date Friday, September 24 2010. No purchase necessary.

For our full Terms and Conditions please visit [www.kentnews.co.uk](http://www.kentnews.co.uk), or for a posted copy of the T&Cs call 01303 817073.

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# Meet Tamara Drewe - country life will never be the same again

■ BY DAMON SMITH

A NEW life in the country is a messy business in Stephen Frears's rollicking comedy, based on Posy Simmonds's much-loved graphic novel.

Shot on location in Dorset, during an unseasonably hot spell last October, Tamara Drewe chronicles one turbulent year in the life of a young woman struggling to come to terms with the death of her mother.

The people she touches during the grieving process also undergo transformations, gaining the strength to make tough decisions about their personal relationships or pursue deep-rooted obsessions to their catastrophic conclusion.

Screenwriter Moira Buffini draws inspiration from Simmonds's illustrations to sketch finely detailed characters complete with moral flaws, retaining the spirit of the book while playing to the strengths of film.

Gemma Arterton is perfectly cast as London newspaper journalist Tamara, who returns to the cosy village of Ewdown to sell her late mother's cottage.

Blessed with a cosmetically-sculpted new nose and a sense of style that sets her apart from her Wellington boot-clad neighbours, Tamara turns heads of the men folk.

She hires childhood sweetheart and handyman, Andy Cobb (Luke Evans), to oversee repairs whilst encouraging lustful glances from celebrated thriller writer and serial philanderer, Nicholas Hardiment (Roger Allam), who treats his wife Beth (Tamsin Greig) like a skivvy and is ill-suited to the rural setting.

"I don't like cows. They exude bovine malice," he complains.

Tempers flare when Tamara begins dating Ben Sergeant (Dominic Cooper), drummer and driving force behind rock band Swipe.

Schoolgirls Jody (Jessica Barden) and Casey (Charlotte Christie), obsessive fans of Ben,



**LOVE RIVALS:** Gemma Arterton as Tamara Drewe, and right, Jody (Jessica Barden) and Casey (Charlotte Christie)

harbour dreams of stealing the rock god away from Tamara, and they will stoop to any depths to get their man.

Meanwhile, Beth enjoys compliments from American scholar Glen (Bill Camp), who cannot disguise his admiration for everything that she does, gushing excitedly: "If it were possible to have an orgasm from food, these mince pies would do it!"

Tamara Drewe puts a joyful and sometimes darkly humorous spin on Thomas Hardy's Far From The Madding Crowd, with Arterton's sexy heroine at the centre of the bed-hopping and intrigue.

Allam's adulterer elicits pantomime boos with every act of treachery, and Greig tugs the heartstrings with a tour de force performance as a down-trodden cuckold, who notices her husband's natural glow after one liaison and innocently chirps: "You're buzzing like my electric toothbrush just after I've changed the batteries."

Cooper gets lost in the mix, while the double-act of potty-mouthed youngsters Barden and Christie pickpocket all the best exchanges, including one quip about teapot lids that might just turn out to be one of the lines of the year.



**TAMARA DREWE**  Certificate 15

PICTURE: CHANNEL 4



**TO THE RESCUE:** Property expert Sarah Beeny has sound advice for housebuyers



## YOUR TV REVIEW

**HELP! MY HOUSE IS FALLING DOWN:** Channel 4, 8pm, Tuesday

■ BY JENNY ARMSTRONG

pipes and the trees' thirst for water had made the soil dry up and the house subside. This in turn had produced cracks in masonry and windows, leaving the whole place damp and rotting.

And woodworm was happily eating its way through floorboards and structural beams.

The show's producers dealt with this grizzly situation by introducing comically nightmarish music throughout, and a series of melodramatically colourless shots depicting the worst of the defects.

Even the usually upbeat Sarah Beeny has been told to keep her commentary to a hushed monotone, lending the programme a bizarrely gothic feel.

But the programme does have several redeeming features. Ms Beeny gives her usual brand of friendly, helpful and practical advice. She is also not too shy to tell people what needs doing.

The programme is littered with hints and tips for those with similar problems, from how to spot whether your woodworm is alive to the perennial plea to get a full structural survey.

And rather than introduce too much false melodrama, the couple I watched got to enjoy an experiment showing that, despite months of sleepless nights, their house was not actually going to topple down.

The programme does show that, even if you have bought a ridiculously dubious-looking house, it will probably be okay given enough money, care and attention.

In this new programme Channel 4 has roped in property veteran Sarah Beeny to help hapless homeowners sort out their eye-wateringly foolish purchases.

I watched a couple from Garden Village in Hull struggle against their 100-year-old forever home, which was being torn apart by magnificent yet treacherous trees.

The roots had destroyed sewage

# yourmusic

## One-day charity festival plays on community spirit



■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

THE annual charity extravaganza that is Antfest is upon us once again, showcasing a wide variety of Kent's musical talent.

Organised by musician Anthony Martin and promoter Anthony Martin, the one-day event has become a staple of the Kent music scene and 2010 has more bands than ever before, playing across two stages at the Command House in Chatham this weekend.

Headlining on the outdoor stage is Maidstone-based pop punk outfit One Day Elliott, while indoors Beneath the Harbour will be thrashing out their brutal brand of metal.

Also playing are unhinged folk act Los Salvadores, rockers Strange Day and punk band The Startover.

As well as raising money for The Arethusa Centre, Anthony says the event is about celebrating the diverse talent in the county.

He said: 'I've been in bands since I was 17 and in my 11 years I've met lots of awesome people. These people are the first on my list when booking Antfest.'

'Then I book young bands too so that they get to see and hang out with the previous generation of bands and maybe we can learn a thing or two from each other.'

'We've got the old generation of bands like Los Salvadores, One Day Elliott and 3dBsDOWN still alive and kicking, the next generation of bands like The Startover and Adelaide progressing and doing really well in the wider world of the scary music industry and the younger generation of bands like Luke

Jackson, Escape From Alcatraz coming through and reminding us what it was like to be young, vital and energetic!'

'I like to keep a sense of cameraderie between the bands I book, any divas will not be pandered to and in the past I've refused to book bands again that don't fit in with the community ethos. It's fun and friendly and awesome!'

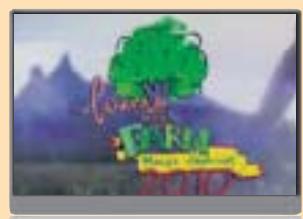
The Arethusa Centre is a Venture Centre which gives disadvantaged children the opportunity to take part in activities such as canoeing, rock climbing and sailing.

Anthony said: 'The reason I raise money for it is because my grandfather Charles Tindal worked there after he retired from Kingsnorth Power Station until he sadly passed away.'

Antfest is on Saturday, September 18, at The Command House, Dock Road, Chatham. The music starts at 2pm.

UPLOAD YOUR MUSIC VIDEOS TO BROADCAST ON OUR WEBSITE @

[yourkenttv.co.uk](http://yourkenttv.co.uk)



MUSIC FESTIVAL: A montage from this year's Lounge on the Farm

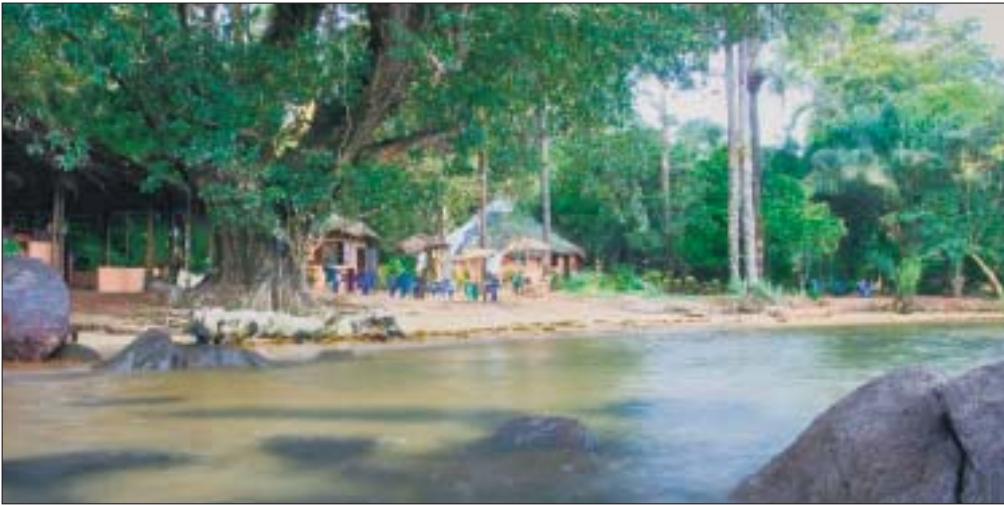


BAND PRACTICE: Zinta Egle and her band play Love With No Love



### TOP FIVE KENT GIGS

- 1 Craig Sheridan - Times Change, Deal
- 2 Ron Bowdery - This is Kelpie, New Eltham
- 3 Save Target As - You've Got Me, Deal
- 4 Vivid Nation - What Will Be, Canterbury
- 5 The Suspects - War of The Words, Margate



ISLAND PARADISE: The relaxed guest house on Banana Island, which was once a slaving port, and the red dirt road to Tiwai Island (below)

# yourgetaways



## Beautiful Sierra Leone has left the memories of war behind

■ BY JAMES EDGAR

AS we creep along the jungle trail it's difficult to imagine that just a decade ago this was a lawless land where rebels roamed.

Gun-toting militiamen ravaged this wildlife sanctuary deep in Sierra Leone's south-east forest, killing animals for food and fun, stealing anything they could find and flushing out the community.

Tony Blair had to send troops in to Freetown to rescue British citizens.

Now tour operator Exodus takes Britons back there on holiday; on guided group tours offering a mix of local culture, wildlife, great beaches and organised activities like canoe trips and midnight snorkelling.

Certainly, life is thriving again on the wildlife sanctuary of Tiwai Island.

Eleven species of monkey rule the forest and the elusive pygmy hippopotamus roams the beds of the lazy Moa River.

Scores of bird species live in treetops above the majestic buttress roots and dense bush far beneath.

We took a walk at dawn, a good time to see animals, and mysterious rustlings and cracking branches indicated there were plenty about.

Our guide, Mohamed Koroma, from Kambama village, started work in the forest as a teenager.

He talked about the day the rebels came: 'When they reached the village, they asked us to cross with them. Someone refused and they killed him.'

Tiwai Island typifies proud and beautiful Sierra Leone, a country roughly the size of Wales and 60 per cent Islamic.

Where terror once ruled, natural beauty now pervades and its people want to share it with visitors.

As you land in Sierra Leone, after a six-hour flight from London, all

### FACT FILE: SIERRA LEONE

Time difference +One hour (GMT)

Capital Freetown

Language English and Krio

Population 6,400,000

Currency Leone

Religion Muslim and Christian

James travelled with Exodus, which offers an eight-day trip to Sierra Leone, departing Jan 21, 2011, from £2,399 inc return flights, transfers, accommodation, activities, most meals and tour leader. Reservations: 0845 863 9601 and [www.exodus.co.uk](http://www.exodus.co.uk). Return flights Heathrow-Freetown with BMI start at £883. BMI reservations: 0870 607 0555 and [www.flybmi.com](http://www.flybmi.com).



you see from the window is deep green forest and rust-red earth. This can only be Africa.

At Lungi Airport on the western coast, the heat envelops you. Our long wait at the luggage carousel was eased by friendly West African greetings. Unlike many undeveloped airports, people are keen to help.

Lungi is across the huge natural harbour from Freetown, the bustling capital, so we caught the boat for the half-hour sea trip.

We explored the city on foot, via the indoor market, where bartering for wooden figurines and ornate fabrics is part of the fun.

Inside St George's Cathedral we found calm amid all the commotion.

In the heart of the capital is the iconic Cotton Tree, where Sierra Leoneans gather for celebrations. Its huge canopy spreads like a comfort blanket over a central square.

Freetown witnessed so much terror during the 1991 to 2002 civil war, but tourist chiefs plan to change this war-torn image.

To the south of the Western Area peninsula lie the Banana Islands,

places of incredible beauty which are scarred with an ugly history.

Sierra Leone was a hub of the slave trade, and the islands were slaving ports.

It's tough to visualise these atrocities as you stroll along the beaches and swim in calm, warm seas.

A few yards from the shore, beach huts are spacious and comfortable. At our request, restaurant staff swap out for fresh lobsters.

After soaking up the rays, we drove into the hills of the peninsula to Tacugama Chimpanzee Sanctuary, which cares for 100 abused chimps before returning them to the wild.

Sierra Leone's second city, Bo, is six hours' drive from Freetown.

A walk around the maze of narrow alleyways in the food market challenges the senses. Chillies of every colour are strewn across tables, the smell of pungent dried fish fills the air and traders shout their prices.

A rough diamond in West Africa, Sierra Leone is rich in natural beauty and genuine hospitality, and eager to invite the world to share it.

THE CLASSIC PANTOMIME ADVENTURE!

John Thomson

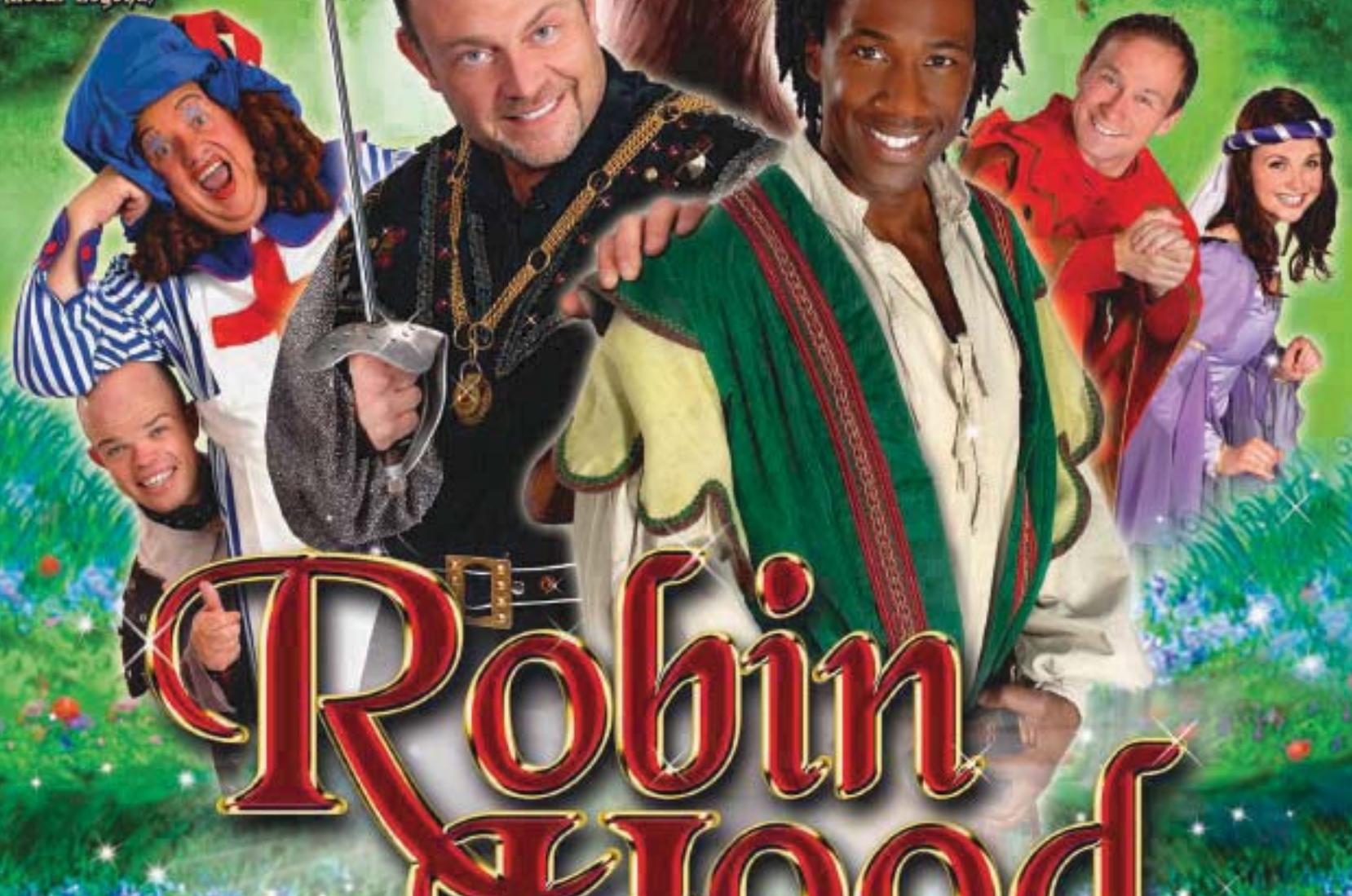
(Cold Feet, Coronation St)

Dave Lee

(Local Legend)

Sid Sloane

(Sid from CBeebies)



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## MOTORS NEWS



### Just business as usual as Ford retains No1 status

FORD remains No1 in the UK motor market, after leading registrations in August and being overall sales leader so far this year despite the loss of the Scrappage scheme as a stimulant.

The top sellers are a familiar No1-No2 partnership of the Fiesta supermini and the Focus family hatch, while the brand's Galaxy MPV and Transit and Fiesta vans head their respective sectors.

Ford of Britain MD Nigel Sharp said the robust performance was down to clearer pricing, new ads and "our best ever vehicle range."



### Chevy Captiva tuned to capture more buyers

CHEVROLET has updated its value-for-money five/seven-seat Captiva SUV to take it more upmarket.

Front end tidying up includes new corporate twin grille styling; the cabin has been upgraded; and there are new engines and transmissions with front-wheel drive and 4x4 layouts.

The new power comes from a 171bhp 2.4-litre petrol unit and two 2.2-litre turbodiesels with 163bhp and 184bhp and the most intriguing aspect will be how these interact with a re-tuned chassis claimed to improve the big Chevy's cornering, roll characteristics and ride feel.



### Mazda bucks market

DARTFORD-based Mazda UK hit a new market share milestone in August - 3.8 per cent of the retail market and 2.7 per cent of the overall market, including fleet sales.

"We're bucking the industry trend and selling above our own targets," said David Wilson-Green, national sales manager.

In a market down 17.5 percent on a year ago, combined sales of models like the Mazda6 (pictured) rose 4.4 percent over August 2009 and sales so far this year are 17.9 percent up on a year ago.



**BIG DIFFERENCE:** Kia's new Sorento couldn't look more different to its predecessor; it's lighter and handles better on-road, but it can still tackle rough terrain when the need arises

# Big softy makes its point

## ROAD TEST KIA SORENTO

■ BY STEVE LOADER

### STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

And now, after a whole week with the car, I like it even more. The diesel might sound a little gruff, but has plenty of low-down urge for this big car in busy traffic, while allowing economical cruising, averaging around 40mpg in manual or auto form – both six-speeders.

The car's height and bulk are controlled well when driven with spirit too, while Kia's increasing mastery of decent interiors at value prices is also evident.

However, the test car's silver-coloured plastic highlights already showed some scuffing, which does not bode well for how they might look in a year's time.

The cabin is huge and airiness was enhanced by a panoramic sun roof – with electric opening/tilt on the front section – standard on our £30,005 KX-3 4x4 flagship model.

Both rear rows of seats are easily managed for whatever mix of seating and cargo is required and second row seats rake so that passengers can snooze on long journeys; the new Sorento really does crossover/MPV duties rather well.

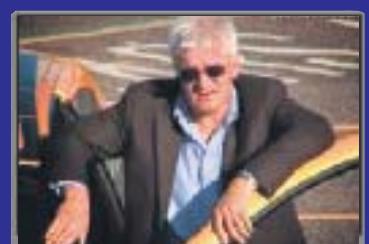
Of course, there are brand snobs who might crave more status, but why spend more and settle for a piffling warranty too?



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## SIMPLY UNBEATABLE WEEKLY PAYMENTS

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**05 Ford Focus C-Max 1.6 MPV 5dr**  
in Panther Black, 42561 miles

Cash Price	Deposit	47 Monthly Payments	Weekly Equivalent	1 Final Payment
£5999	£599.90	£130.82	£30.00	£280.79
Total Amount Payable £7199.23				APR 9.9% Typical



**06 Ford Mondeo 2.0 Diesel Hatchback 5dr**  
in Metallic Blue, 71034 miles

Cash Price	Deposit	47 Monthly Payments	Weekly Equivalent	1 Final Payment
£5999	£599.90	£130.82	£31.00	£280.79
Total Amount Payable £7199.23				APR 9.9%



**04 Ford StreetKa 1.6 Convertible 2dr**  
in Silver, 71067 miles

Cash Price	Deposit	47 Monthly Payments	Weekly Equivalent	1 Final Payment
£3899	£389.90	£84.13	£54.00	£234.31
Total Amount Payable £4748.32				APR 9.9%



**07 Kia Sedona 2.9 Diesel MPV 5dr**  
in Silver, 31095 miles

Cash Price	Deposit	47 Monthly Payments	Weekly Equivalent	1 Final Payment
£8699	£869.90	£190.85	£43.00	£340.64
Total Amount Payable £10350.49				APR 9.9%



**07 Vauxhall Astra 1.3 Hatchback 5dr Manual**  
in Silver, 79288 miles

Cash Price	Deposit	47 Monthly Payments	Weekly Equivalent	1 Final Payment
£5499	£549.90	£119.70	£27.00	£269.90
Total Amount Payable £6615.70				APR 9.9%



**07 Ford Fiesta 1.4 Diesel Hatchback 5dr**  
in White, 22859 miles

Cash Price	Deposit	47 Monthly Payments	Weekly Equivalent	1 Final Payment
£6999	£699.90	£153.05	£35.00	£303.07
Total Amount Payable £8366.32				APR 9.9%

Here is just a small selection of our stock available all with unbelievable weekly payments!

KA				
59 FORD KA 1.2 STUDIO 3DR 3092 MILES	£6999			£11799
59 FORD KA 1.2 STUDIO 3DR 12002 MILES	£6999			£6499
54 FORD KA 1.3I STYLE [70] 3DR 34011 MILES	£1899			£6699
04 FORD STREETKA 1.6I LUXURY 2DR 71067 MILES	£3899			£7499
FIESTA				
07 FORD FIESTA DIESEL HATCHBACK1.4 TDCI ZETEC 5DR [CLIMATE] (2005 - 2008) 22859 MILES	£6999			£5999
C-MAX				
07 FORD C-MAX ESTATE1.6 STYLE 5DR (2007 - ) 43548 MILES	£5999			£4499
07 FORD C-MAX ESTATE1.8 ZETEC 5DR (2007 - ) 28104 MILES	£6799			£3299
06 FORD FOCUS C-MAX DIESEL ESTATE1.8 TDCI GHIA 5DR [EURO 4] (2005 - 2007) 19594 MILES	£7499			£8499
55 FORD FOCUS C-MAX ESTATE1.6 LX 5DR (2003 - 2007) 52562 MILES	£5499			£4699
56 FORD FOCUS C-MAX ESTATE1.6 ZETEC 5DR (2003 - 2007) 35234 MILES	£6999			£1699
07 FORD FOCUS C-MAX ESTATE2.0 ZETEC 5DR AUTO (2005 - 2007) 47196 MILES	£7499			£4999
07 FORD FOCUS C-MAX ESTATE2.0 ZETEC 5DR AUTO (2005 - 2007) 9136 MILES	£8399			£2199
07 FORD FOCUS C-MAX PETROL ESTATESTYLE (5-DR 1.6 DURATEC 100PS S IV (-) 44212 MILES	£6499			£1799
FOCUS				
56 FORD FOCUS DIESEL ESTATE1.6 TDCI LX 5DR (2005 - 2007) 40422 MILES	£6499			£5399
56 FORD FOCUS DIESEL ESTATE1.6 TDCI LX 5DR [110] [EURO 4] (2005 - 2007) 57484 MILES	£5999			COMING SOON
07 FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK1.6 LX 5DR (2005 - 2007) 32588 MILES	£6799			05 VAUXHALL ASTRA1.8I 16V SRI 5DR [EXTERIOR PACK] 60832 MILES
(2005 - 2007) 41967 MILES	£5999			£5999
07 FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK1.6 ZETEC 3DR AUTO [CLIMATE PACK] (2005 - 2007) 52350 MILES	£6499			57 VAUXHALL ASTRA2.0T 16V VRX 3DR 30170 MILES
06 FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK1.6 ZETEC 5DR [CLIMATE PACK] (2005 - 2007) 45686 MILES	£5999			£3499
07 FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK1.8 ZETEC 3DR [CLIMATE PACK] (2006 - 2007) 15293 MILES	£6999			56 VAUXHALL CORSA1.4I 16V CLUB 3DR AUTO [AC] 14720 MILES
07 FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK1.8 ZETEC 3DR [CLIMATE PACK] (2006 - 2007) 62000 MILES	£5999			£5499
07 FORD FOCUS SALOON1.6 GHIA 4DR (2005 - 2007) 15841 MILES	£7499			05 VAUXHALL MERIVA1.4 16V ENJOY 5DR 29764 MILES
54 FORD FOCUS1.6 ZETEC 5DR 69783 MILES	£3499			07 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA1.6I CLUB 5DR (2005 - 2008) 28611 MILES
04 FORD FOCUS1.8 TDCI LX 5DR 46500 MILES	£3999			£6999
06 FORD FOCUS1.8 TDCI ZETEC 3DR [EURO4] [CLIMATE PACK] (2005 - 2007) 96000 MILES	£3999			06 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA1.6I LIFE 5DR 32963 MILES
				£5799
				55 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA1.6I LIFE 5DR 34944 MILES
				£5299
				07 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA2.2I LIFE 5DR AUTO 38000 MILES
				£5999
				02 VOLKSWAGEN GOLF1.6 16V S 5DR 47137 MILES
				£2499
				07 CHEVROLET LACETTI HATCHBACK1.6 SX 5DR (2005 - ) 28753 MILES
				£3999
				07 CITROEN XSARA PICASSO ESTATE1.6I 16V VTX 5DR (2006 - 2009) 17366 MILES
				£5699

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#### 10 Plate Skoda Octavia VRS

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#### 10 Plate Skoda Octavia 1.4 SE TSI

Alloys, Air Con, Aqua Blue. **ONLY £12,995\***

#### 10 Plate Skoda Fabia 1.4 TDI Sport

16" Alloys, Air Con, Privacy Glass, Sports Pack, Under 2000 miles, Only £35 per year road tax. **ONLY £9495\***

#### 10 Plate Skoda Fabia 2, 1.4 TDI

Aqua Blue, Air Con, Alloys, Only £35 per year road tax. **ONLY £8995\***

#### 10 Plate Skoda Fabia, 1.2, 5 Door

Storm Blue. **ONLY £8195\***

#### 59 Plate Skoda Fabia, 1.2, 5 Door

Corrida Red, Air Con, Central Locking. **ONLY £7995\***

### Used Cars

#### 55 Plate Skoda Octavia 1.9 TDI Estate L and K

Leather Trim, Air Con, 61,500 miles. £7,995\*

#### 03 Plate Skoda Octavia 1.8 T Elegance 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Admiral Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 12,403 miles. Was £4,995. **Now £4,495\***

#### 09 Plate Skoda Fabia 1.2 Estate

Saturn Grey, Top of the Range, 10,700 miles. £9,495\*

#### 2008 Skoda Fabia 1.9 TDI Estate

Dark Grey, 25,310 miles. £9,495\*

#### 07 Plate Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Dynamic Blue with a Black Cloth interior, 13,200 miles. £6,995\*

#### 07 Plate Skoda Fabia 2 1.2 HTP 12V (70 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Flamenco Red Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 13,295 miles. £6,995\*

#### 08 Plate Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Storm Blue Metallic with a Grey Cloth interior, 26,875 miles. £6,495\*

#### 06 Plate Skoda Superb 2.0 Elegance

Black, 1 owner from new, Sat Nav, Climate Control, Leather Trim. £6,995\*

#### 06 Plate Skoda Fabia 1.9 TDI Estate

Red, FSH, 51,768 miles. £6,495\*

#### 54 Plate Skoda Fabia 1.2 HTP (54 BHP) Classic 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Dynamic Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 48,500 miles. £3,995\*

#### 2003 Skoda Fabia 1.2 HTP (54 BHP) Classic 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Dynamic Blue with a Black Cloth interior, 81,500 miles. £2995\*

#### 58 Plate Skoda Roomster 1.9 TDI

Silver, 11,000 miles. £10,795\*

#### 58 Plate Skoda Roomster Scout 1.6 16v, Automatic

Red, Top of The Range, 14,500 miles. £9,495\*

### Other Makes

#### 2008 Mitsubishi Lancer 1.6 Equipe 4-Door Saloon

Finished in Metallic Gunmetal Grey, Manual, 21,800 miles. £7,995\*

#### 2004 Volkswagen Touran 1.6 S (100BHP) 7-Seat

Finished in Blue Metallic with a Grey Cloth interior, 50,500 miles. £6,995 **Now £6,495\***

#### 07 Plate SEAT Ibiza 1.4 16v Style

Silver, FSH, 1 owner from new, 16,190 miles. £6,495\*

#### 2006 Fiat Punto 1.2 Active 5-Door Hatchback

Finished in Astral Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 41,430 miles. £4,495\*

#### 2004 Citroen C3 Pluriel 1.6 2-Door Cabriolet Jan 2004

Artic Steel Metallic 86,467 miles Manual Petrol £3,995\*

#### 2002 Daewoo Tacuma 1.6 SE 5-Door MPV

Finished in Imperial Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 59,500 miles. £2,995\*

#### 05 Plate Rover 23 GSI 1.4 3dr

Grey, 1 Owner, 55,000 miles. £2,495\*

### Clearance Sale

#### Skoda Octavia 1.9 TDI Elegance

ONLY £1,995\*

#### 2002 Suzuki Wagon R 1.3 GL 75 BHP 5-Door Hatchback Mar

Bright Red 39,350 miles Manual Petrol. Was £3,995. **Now £2,995\***

#### 2006 Ford Ka 1.3 3-Door Hatchback

Finished in Colorado Red with a Black Cloth interior, 56,500 miles. Was £3,995. **Now £3,295\***

#### 2002 Renault Clio 1.2 Expression 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Moondust Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 74,300 miles. Was £2,995. **Now £2,295\***

#### 2004 Ford Ka 1.3 3-Door Hatchback

Finished in Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 39,500 miles. Was £2,995. **Now £2,295\***

\*Correct at time of going to press.



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**PROPERTY NEWS****Follow the advice of the experts for a smoother move**

Moving home can be a nightmare but LINDSEY DAYKIN of Pickfords Removals suggests some top tips to help make the stress much less!

**1 CHOOSE A REMOVAL COMPANY**

Make sure your movers are a member of the British Association of Removers. BAR is a trade association, which fosters fair practice and high standards.

**2 CHOOSE A PACKING OPTION**

The cost of your move will vary based on the type of packing service you choose, from a full packing service, just having your fragile items packed professionally or packing yourself.

**3 COMPARE QUOTATIONS.**

If you have invited more than one removal company to quote, check the quotations carefully. Different firms may recommend different services. Compare the number of days that the companies recommend the move will take and compare the costs of insurance and the types of packing services.

**4 A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD**

Show all the removal companies exactly the same household effects. Remember the loft, the garage and the garden shed. Your quotation will be based on the volume of goods that the removal company's sales person has seen.

**5 CONSIDER STORAGE**

If you can't move straight into your new home, short or long term storage at a facility close to your new home could be a flexible solution. Your removal company will collect and deliver your consignment to store.

**6 BE AWARE OF UNEXPECTED COSTS**

Some homeowners may experience a delay in receiving the keys to their new home and in these cases additional costs would be incurred.

**7 ASK YOUR REMOVAL COMPANY FOR ADVICE**

Most moving companies will be able to provide a hint and tips list. Plan all your tasks and delegate some tasks to other members of the family so that no one person is inundated with work.

**8 TELL YOUR NEIGHBOURS**

A removal vehicle is the same size as a bus and may cause an obstruction in your road. Parking permits may have to be arranged, so check with your local authority.

**9 MAKE A SPACE PLAN**

Make a plan of your new property and mark up the position of the furniture. This will help the crew on delivery day to place furniture to your instructions.

• To contact the British Association of Removers go to [www.bar.co.uk](http://www.bar.co.uk).



# A great time to get on to the property ladder

The heady lending days of mid-2007 might be over but BRIAN MURPHY, head of lending at the Mortgage Advice Bureau, says there are still a range of mortgages available

**BORROWERS** may no longer have access to 100 per cent mortgages, but loans at up to 90 per cent are now more in evidence and the bigger deposit you can commit, the better the deal you will obtain.

A company such as the Mortgage Advice Bureau would always recommend any borrower to seek the advice of an independent mortgage broker, who will assess your individual needs and recommend the most appropriate deal for your personal circumstances.

The costs of mortgages are generally at unprecedented low levels as a result of the bank base rate being at an historically low level of 0.5 per cent.

With lenders having started to regain their appetite for lending once again, many have responded with some very attractively priced products for all sectors of the market, including first-time buyers, home movers and those looking to refinance.

Potential borrowers need to demonstrate a history of being able to service existing bor-



rowing, including regular repayments of credit cards, unsecured loans and utility bills.

Income is obviously the cornerstone of the ability to borrow and lenders are now less likely to take into account variable elements of pay.

Borrowers at the moment are broadly split between those opting for fixed rates and those

going for variable. The vast majority of variable products are now tracker mortgages, where the rate is linked to a benchmark usually the bank base rate (BBR).

With lenders now under increased scrutiny to ensure that they are lending responsibly, mortgage interest rates are priced to reflect the risk that a particular loan to value or type of borrower represents.

Someone looking to borrow below 60 per cent of a property's value can obtain a mortgage for under three per cent on a two-year fixed rate basis, whereas a first time borrower looking at 90 per cent of the property's value will be looking at around 6.6 per cent for a two-year fixed rate deal.

For those who may think home ownership is out of reach, a number of schemes exist that are specifically designed for those on lower incomes or with limited deposits.

These shared equity schemes are government funded and are run under the banner of 'affordable home ownership'.

Specific details can be obtained at [www.homesandcommunities.co.uk](http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk).

In short, an equity loan is offered that provides up to 30 per cent of the purchase price on which no repayments are required for up to five years.

The scheme is available under the title HomeBuy Direct to allow purchasers to buy selected new build properties on sites that have been approved through the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA).

## Relax and save in your new home



WHEN you buy a brand new home life takes on an entirely different perspective.

It becomes more relaxed and there's an extra special pride and joy in welcoming family and friends to your new surroundings.

There are no nagging worries about getting the roof fixed or the windows and doors draught-proofed or making sure the heating system will see you through another winter.

In fact, you are moving towards a relatively trouble-free lifestyle that will enable you to do many more of the things you ought to have been enjoying before.

It will be cheaper to run and maintain, and much more comfortable all year round.

You can relax in the knowledge that your new home will have been designed and built to a high standard. In fact, this year customer satisfaction has reached record levels.

New homes are much greener too. They are built to exacting performance levels making them 60 per cent more energy efficient, generating savings of more than £500 a year on fuel bills against less efficient older properties.

New homes are built with materials and components that have been through the R&D

mill to ensure they provide maximum performance when they are an integral part of your new dwelling.

Architects and specifiers know they can rely on what the building product manufacturers make and consequently housebuilders have great materials and components to work with.

Every new home is extremely well insulated. They are fitted with high performance windows and doors, and include energy-efficient heating and hot water systems as well as low energy lighting.

If you live in an older home then within the next few decades you might find it necessary to bring it up to higher energy efficiency standards or you might have difficulty selling when the time comes. Carrying out this improvement work could cost as much as £30,000 for the average UK property.

But if you are buying a home built to today's high standards you are sitting pretty, and will already be making your considerable contribution to reducing UK carbon emissions.

The kitchen is usually the most important room in any new home, with a choice of stylish new units, the latest ovens and appliances as well as new tiling and floor coverings.

Bathrooms are now the second most important room in the house. Like the kitchen they add the other wow-factor to a new home. But modern bathrooms don't just look good, they do good as well.

In the average second-hand home, water consumption can be as high as 150 litres per person per day. In a new home designed to even the modest Level 3 of the Code for Sustainable Homes, water consumption is reduced to 105 litres per person.

**IF YOU ARE THINKING OF MOVING, TAKE A LOOK AT HOMES AND DEVELOPMENTS ACROSS THE COUNTY @ [yourkenttv.co.uk](http://yourkenttv.co.uk)**



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### Pluckley Guide Price £210k to 220k

Two bedroom Victorian cottage situated within the conservation area of the rural village of Pluckley. Kitchen/diner, two bedrooms and a first floor bathroom.

Ashford Office

01233 624561



### Sellindge £320k to 340k

Four bedroom detached family. Lounge, dining room, refitted kitchen, cloakroom, four bedrooms, bathroom, separate w.c., garage, parking & garden.

Ashford Office

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### Ashford Asking Price £85,000

Two bedroom flat. Within close proximity to junction 10 of M20 and bus routes to Ashford Town Centre.

Ashford Office

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### Ashford Guide Price £130,000 to £150,000

Lounge/diner, attractive kitchen, two good size bedrooms and a family bathroom.

Ashford Office

01233 624561



### Ashford Guide Price £150,000 to £160,000

Two bedroom semi detached property with garage. Good order throughout. Double glazing, gas central heating, downstairs wc and parking for a further two cars.

Ashford Office

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Still time to move this year and **save £££'s** on VAT

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### Ashford Guide Price £110,000 to £120,000

Terrace house in the popular location of Manorfield in Ashford. Accommodation consists of two bedrooms, family bathroom, kitchen and lounge/diner.

Ashford Office

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### Ashford Guide Price £130,000 to £140,000

Two bedroom cottage. Lounge, kitchen, cloakroom, bathroom, rear garden exceptionally well proportioned and will definitely appeal to those with a horticultural interest.

Ashford Office

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Willesborough Guide Price £160,000 to £180,000

Three bed semi detached property in Ashford. The vendor has been developing the property during his time of ownership and is now nearing completion of the works.

Appledore £180,000

Accommodation consists of two double bedrooms, family bathroom, a spacious lounge, dining room, modern fitted kitchen, rear garden.

Ashford £185,000

Three bedroom semi detached house. Lounge, kitchen/diner, conservatory, bathroom. Rear garden, garage, off road parking.

Ashford Office

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The accommodation comprises an entrance hall, cloakroom, bedroom four/study, dining room, lounge, kitchen, utility room and a 17 foot conservatory. To the first floor, there are three double bedrooms and a family bathroom.

Maidstone Office

01622 759891

**New Romney £245,000**

NO CHAIN. Three bedroom detached bungalow. Kitchen, conservatory, dining room. Rear garden has a patio area and lawn. Garage and gate to front. Driveway providing off road parking for several cars.

New Romney Office 01797 363194

**Dover £194,950**

Three bedroom 1930's semi detached house. Some UPVC double glazing. Two reception rooms. Off road parking.

Kearney Office 01304 823714

**Sellindge £320,000 to £340,000**

Four bedroom detached family home in village location. Lounge, dining room, refitted kitchen, cloakroom, four bedrooms, bathroom, separate w.c., garage, parking, 95ft rear garden.

Ashford Office 01233 624561

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# GET MOVING

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**Nonington Guide Price £350,000 to £370,000**

Geering & Colyer are pleased to be able to offer for sale this fine example of semi rural living found in the sought after location of Hammond Close, Nonington, Near Dover, Kent.

Canterbury Office 01227 457253

**Dover Guide Price £120,000 to £140,000**

This three bedroom back to back semi detached home is situated within a 1/2 mile radius of the town centre, schooling and the seafront. The property offers its new owners double glazing, a 14' x 13' lounge overlooking the rear garden and parking.

Dover Office

01304 207099

**Maidstone £325,000**

NO CHAIN. Four bedroom detached family house. Entrance porch, hallway, utility room, fitted kitchen, lounge, dining room, conservatory. The master bedroom has an en suite bathroom. Enclosed rear garden.

Maidstone Office 01622 759891

01304 207099

**Folkestone £380,000 to £410,000**

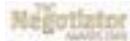
This lovely family home has been much improved by its current owners and now boasts four bedrooms, kitchen/breakfast room measuring in excess of 19' with doors leading to the garden.

Folkestone Office 01303 250757

**Martin Mill Guide Price £135,000 to £155,000**

Two bedroom cottage. Village location. Gas central heating. First floor bathroom. A well fitted kitchen and garden to the rear. If you are looking for countryside living this could be for you!

Dover Office 01304 207099

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- Off road parking

**£205,000**

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### Ashford

- Semi detached house
- Lounge, kitchen/diner
- Conservatory & off road parking

**£210,000**

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### Willesborough

- Three bedroom link detached house
- F/kitchen, bathroom
- Driveway, garage & garden

**Guide Price £180k to 200k**

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### Ashford

- Three bedroom semi detached house
- Lounge, kitchen & dining room
- Garden

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### Kingsnorth

- Three Bedrooms
- Fitted Kitchen, lounge/diner
- Garden & off street parking

**Offers Over £165,000**

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### Ashford

- Three bedroom end of terrace house
- Kitchen, lounge, bathroom
- Garden

**Offers Over £150,000**

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### Kingsnorth

- Two bedroom mid terrace
- Lounge/diner, fitted kitchen
- Garden & allocated parking

**Offers Over £140,000**

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### Charing

- Two double bedrooms
- Dining room, lounge, kitchen
- Garden & garage

**OIRO £120,000**

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### Ashford

- End of terrace house
- Three bedrooms, kitchen/diner
- Off street parking & garden

**Offers Over £110,000**

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### Willesborough,

- Two bedroom first floor flat
- Lounge, kitchen,
- Bathroom

**OIRO £99,950**

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### Ashford

- Two bedroom ground floor apartment
- Lounge/diner
- Fitted kitchen

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**Willesborough**  
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# Bairstow eves

**Canterbury 01227 765527**  
[canterbury@bairstoweves.co.uk](mailto:canterbury@bairstoweves.co.uk)

**Countrywide**



**£195,000**

The property comprises: entrance hall, lounge/diner, fitted kitchen to the ground floor and three bedrooms.



**£215,000**

Detached bungalow. Off road parking. Gardens to front and rear. Fitted kitchen, bathroom, two bedrooms & lounge.



**£215,000**

End of terrace period cottage. Lounge/diner, kitchen and bathroom/wc. Garage. No chain.



**£229,950**

Terraced home. There are well established gardens to both front and rear. The rear garden measures approximately 100'.



**Offers in excess of £230,000**

One bed roomed Penthouse Apartment with its own private terrace and situated in a prestigious location.



**£150,000**

Three bedroom house. Lounge/diner, modern kitchen, established gardens to the front and rear, garage en-bloc.



**£250,000**

Semi-detached house in a cul-de-sac location with off road parking, gardens & garage/workshop.



**Asking Price £265,000**

Three bedroom townhouse. Lounge/diner, bathroom and low maintenance courtyard style garden with side access.



**Asking Price £320,000**

Three/Four bedrooms. Lounge. Kitchen. Ample parking. Enclosed rear garden. Viewing is highly recommended.



**£470,000**

Detached home. The properties have their own gas fired central heating, double glazed windows and doors.

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<b>ASHFORD</b>  • FOUR BED TERRACED HOUSE • MODERN KITCHEN/DINER • CONSERVATORY, LOUNGE • FAMILY BATHROOM/WC	<b>ASHFORD</b>  • NO ONWARD CHAIN • THREE BEDROOMS • DETACHED • OFF ROAD PARKING	<b>WILLESBOROUGH</b>  • TWO BEDROOM SEMI • DETACHED BUNGALOW • NO ONWARD CHAIN • PRISTINE CONDITION	<b>HOTHFIELD</b>  • THREE BED END OF TERRACE • IN SOME NEED OF UPDATING • IDEAL FIRST TIME BUY OR INVESTMENT • VILLAGE LOCATION	<b>ORCHARD HEIGHTS</b>  • FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED HOUSE • EN-SUITE SHOWER/WC TO MASTER • LOUNGE, DINING ROOM, CONSERVATORY • MODERN FITTED KITCHEN & UTILITY	<b>MAGAZINE ROAD</b>  • TWO BED FIRST FLOOR • WELL PRESENTED • FITTED KITCHEN • DOUBLE GLAZING

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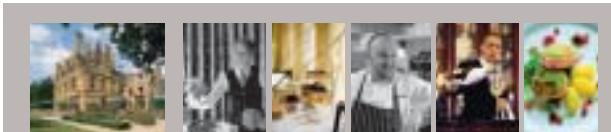
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Please apply with CV and covering letter with current salary details to: Keely Dobinson at [kdobinson@handpicked.co.uk](mailto:kdobinson@handpicked.co.uk)

Closing date: 4th October 2010.

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Due to the complete refurbishment of our Folkestone branch we need to fill the following vacancies.

**Workshop Controller**  
We require the services of a qualified technician to run our busy multi franchise workshop. Previous experience in this role would be preferred but not essential, the successful candidate needs to be energetic, have good technical knowledge, be able to organise a very busy workshop, have IT skills and leadership qualities.

**Service Advisor**  
An experienced Service Advisor is needed for our busy front counter. Experience in one of our franchises would be beneficial but not essential. The successful applicant must be able to work under pressure and have good people skills. The role includes serving customers on a day to day basis and advising on work required so some mechanical knowledge would be an advantage.

**Customer Care Assistant**  
This role involves maintaining our excellent customer satisfaction index, calling customers to book MOTs and services. Contacting customers after they have visited KAP to ensure they are happy with any work carried out by us and are completely satisfied. Running daily CSI and workshop diary reports. The successful applicant would need to have basic IT skills with a good knowledge of excel, and have a good phone manner with an upbeat personality.

**Parts Assistant**  
This role requires sourcing and distribution of parts for our busy workshop and dealing with retail enquiries from the front parts counter. Ford experience would be a distinct advantage but not essential. The successful applicant would need to be hard working, honest and have some knowledge of the motor parts industry with the flexibility to work on weekends.

The successful applicants for the above positions will be working for a well established multi-franchise dealership, benefits include a generous remuneration package and a fantastic opportunity to further their career within the motor industry.

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Please send CV's to Alistair Mackay-Miller, Piper Double Glazing Limited, 140 Newington Road, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 6PP or by e-mail to [ron@piperwindows.co.uk](mailto:ron@piperwindows.co.uk).

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### PENT VALLEY TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE REQUIRE

#### MOTOR VEHICLE INSTRUCTOR

**Salary:** Dependent on experience

This is an exciting opportunity to help lead and develop this new initiative which had its first student intake in September 2010. The motor vehicle centre which has just opened is state of the art with brand new equipment including 2 vehicle lifts, an ICT lab, wheel balancing and a workshop, a storeroom and a classroom.

The successful candidate will be an individual who has experience of teaching within this sector and who has a vision as to how Pent Valley Technology College can provide real life applied learning experiences for its students in the motor vehicle industry.

Good interpersonal skills are extremely important. This position is suitable for an energetic person who enjoys being with teenagers and can cope with a busy learning environment.

#### CLERK TO GOVERNORS

**Hours:** Flexible

**Salary:** Kent Scheme 7 (£20,262-£23,053 pro rata per annum)

**Responsible to:** Chair of Governors

We are seeking a confident individual to provide clerical support to our school's governing body. You will need good listening, literacy, communication and organisational skills. You will be working from home and school for a minimum of 2 hours per week rising to 12/15 hours per week during busy periods; therefore you will need to be very flexible. Your duties will include arranging meetings, agendas and taking minutes. You will be responsible for keeping mandatory records up to date, receiving and circulating correspondence plus other administrative and clerking duties as required.

Offer of appointment is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure. This school is committed to recruiting with care and safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Contact: Miss S Spratley  
Pent Valley Technology College, Surrenden Road, Folkestone, Kent. CT19 4ED.  
Email: [samantha.spratley@pent-valley.kent.sch.uk](mailto:samantha.spratley@pent-valley.kent.sch.uk)  
Tel: 01303 277161 ext 2218

**Closing Date:** 23rd September 2010

Interviews: to be confirmed



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Abbey Court is located on 2 sites; Rainham (Nursery and Primary) and Strood (Secondary and Further Education), and caters for pupils aged 3-19 with Severe Learning Difficulties. Working hours are 32.5 p/w, term time only. Previous experience and/or NNEB (or equivalent) qualifications preferred. Comprehensive training and induction will be provided.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Record Bureau Disclosure.

For an application pack, please write to/telephone (stating the role for which you are applying):  
Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent ME2 3SP  
(01634 338236)

Please note CV's will not be accepted. Closing date: 24.9.2010



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We believe good customer service is at the heart of our success and we want to recruit people who can develop excellent business relationships and present effective and innovative ideas that will provide real value and response for our customers.

## Digital Sales Executives

You will play the key role in selling advertising and sponsorship across our market-leading portfolio of websites and mobile products.

Candidates will possess a proven track record in media sales, combining excellent communication and presentation skills, a great business acumen, tenacity, and the ability to build positive business relationships. Ultimately, we need an articulate and assured sales person with a structured sales technique, a positive manner and great all-round organisation and IT skills.

## Other Vacancies

KOS Media is always interested to hear from people with ideas who would be interested in a career in multi-media, within local or regional markets.

Whatever your skill set and experience is, please do tell us about yourself and send in your CV, with a covering letter, telling us what you have to offer and how you see yourself working at an innovative media company such as KOS Media.

We offer an excellent basic salary plus generous bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks' annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme (after qualifying period) and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation.

## To apply send your CV with covering letter to:

Jason Pyne, Development Director  
KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS.  
Or by email: [jason.pyne@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:jason.pyne@kosmedia.co.uk)

## About us

KOS Media publishes the UK award-winning Kent on Sunday newspaper and a series of free weekly newspapers, magazines and associated websites and mobile products.

The company produces [kentnews.co.uk](http://kentnews.co.uk) and [yourkentTV](http://yourkentTV), an internet-based TV service providing regional and local news, business and sport, plus websites for jobs, property and motors.

KOS Media's newspapers have won more than 10 national awards, including UK Regional Newspaper of the Year, and UK Free Weekly Newspaper of the Year six times.

In June, 2010, media group Archant purchased KOS Media.

## Archant is the UK's largest independently owned regional media business

It is a community media company active in the fields of regional newspaper and magazine publishing, contract printing and internet communications. All its titles serve clearly defined communities, based around locations or interest groups.

Archant can trace its roots back more than 160 years and today remains one of the country's largest independent media businesses. As a private company it employs 1,850 people right across England. It has an annual turnover of £142 million.

The newspaper division, Archant Regional, produces four daily regional newspapers and around 60 weekly titles with a combined circulation of 2.25 million copies every week. It is a UK top six regional newspaper publisher. It also publishes many of the group's 180 websites and a number of its magazines.

Archant also owns three magazine companies, which between them produce around 80 magazines.



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**Applications are invited for the following posts to start in October 2010**

#### **CHRIST THE KING COLLEGE: ST MARY'S (SIDCUP)**

##### **CURRICULUM LEADER FOR SCIENCE £41,180-£43,701 inclusive**

This is an exciting opportunity to lead a popular department at this Beacon College. You will oversee the work of a team of staff and manage the learning of students taking courses in A Level Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Applied Science and GCSE.

Whether you are an experienced leader or a colleague seeking promotion to such a post for the first time, you should be passionate about education and supporting the achievement of young people. You should set high standards for yourself and others, and have produced excellent results in your subject. If you have a successful track record in this curriculum area and are keen to develop your career in a post-16 environment, we would very much welcome your application.

##### **PART TIME TEACHER OF PSYCHOLOGY, SOCIOLOGY AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE £24,687 - £34,468 inclusive (pro rata) PSP/Threshold is also paid as appropriate**

We are looking to appoint a talented, enthusiastic teacher to deliver Psychology and Sociology up to A Level, with the ability to teach BTEC First and Applied Level Health and Social Care in addition. You will work over two to three days and will be part of a supportive team of teachers.

##### **PART TIME TEACHER OF BIOLOGY £24,687 - £34,468 inclusive (pro rata) PSP/Threshold is also paid as appropriate**

An opportunity has arisen to join the Science team on this site, specialising in the delivery of AS/A2 Biology over one or two days. You should be an enthusiastic, motivated colleague who has the ability to support students in achieving their potential in this subject area.

##### **PART TIME LAY CHAPLAIN £24,761- £29,221 inclusive (pro rata)**

We are seeking to appoint a new member of our highly accomplished Chaplaincy Team. You will work mainly at St Mary's, with flexibility across both sites, from 10.00 am - 2.30 pm over 5 days per week for 40 weeks per year. Salary is based upon qualifications and experience. The successful candidate will be a practising Catholic with excellent interpersonal, communication and organisational skills.

##### **PART TIME CAREERS GUIDANCE OFFICER £26,802 inclusive (pro rata)**

You will work three days per week, initially two days at St Mary's and one day at Lewisham. You will be able to provide high quality, current HE and careers advice. The successful candidate will have excellent interpersonal and organisational skills.

##### **FITNESS AND SPORTS INSTRUCTOR £15,770 inclusive (pro rata)**

We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic, energetic and flexible sports coordinator who will be involved with sports enrichment activities at the St Mary's site. This would include running the College's new fitness suite and a recognised fitness qualification is essential. The successful candidate should be able to engage with and motivate 16-18 year old learners. This post will be for one term in the first instance, from 9.00 am - 4.30 pm over 5 days per week.

There is a pay review pending at 1st September 2010

For an application form and further details visit our website at [www.ctksfc.ac.uk](http://www.ctksfc.ac.uk) Alternatively please contact:

The Personnel Section, Christ the King College: St Mary's, Chislehurst Road, Sidcup, Kent DA14 6BE  
Telephone: 020 8309 4760 Fax: 020 8309 4661 e-mail: [dba@ctksfc.ac.uk](mailto:dba@ctksfc.ac.uk)

**Closing date: Friday 24 September 2010**

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##### **Lecturer in ESOL**

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##### **Lecturer in Life and Employability**

Salary scale: £25,589 - £30,205 for 37 hours per week all year

##### **Lecturer in Catering and Hospitality**

Salary scale: £25,589 - £30,205 for 37 hours per week all year

##### **Programme Leader – Trowel Trades**

Salary scale: £29,413 - £34,817 for 37 hours per week all year

##### **Programme Leader – Hair**

Salary scale: £29,413 - £34,817 for 37 hours per week all year

##### **Programme Leader – Foundation Life and Employability (Entry)**

Salary scale: £29,413 - £34,817 for 37 hours per week all year

##### **Trowel Trades Technician**

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For further details and to apply online please visit our website [www.thanet.ac.uk](http://www.thanet.ac.uk) and click on 'Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052

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IMPRESSIVE START: Ashford (in yellow, black and red)

## World record for teen javelin ace

### DISABLED ATHLETICS

ASHFORD athlete Vicky Silk is the new under-20 javelin world record holder after an impressive performance in the IWAS World Junior Games.

The 18-year-old paralympic hopeful claimed three medals at the games held in the Czech Republic, with the highlight being a gold medal and new world under-20 record in the javelin.

Silk went into the games full of confidence after strong performances in the Middlesex County Championships, the London Disability Athletics Challenge and the Paralympic World Cup.

She began the World Junior Games competing in the javelin and threw 19 metres early on to put herself in medal contention. With her final throw, she produced a career-best to clinch gold with an effort of 20.63m to set a new European and World under-20 record.

With a gold medal already to her name, Silk threw a personal best of 6.45m in the shot to secure a bronze medal. She ended by clinching a third medal, this time silver, with 18.40m in the discus.

Following her display in the Czech Republic, she travelled to Berlin for a national competition where she won a further two silver medals in discus and shot.

She said: "I was delighted with this new personal best and proved to myself that my throws in the Czech Republic were not a fluke."

**Can't get to a game?  
We've got it covered**

### FOOTBALL

KENT Football Live is in operation again this weekend, ensuring you keep up-to-date with your side's progress in another fixture packed Saturday.

It's the only place to follow your team as we provide goals as they go in as well as half-time and full-time scores and a full Kent League run down.

Featured games this Saturday are; Bradford v Gillingham, Ebbsfleet v Weston-Super-Mare and Dartford v Bromley, but don't worry, if you're not a fan of any of those sides, you won't miss out.

We'll bring you updates from the game involving your side, so if you are a Maidstone, Ramsgate, Margate, Sittingbourne, Faversham or Chatham supporter, our site is the only place to see how your side are doing.

All you have to do is log on to [www.kentsport.co.uk](http://www.kentsport.co.uk) from 2pm onwards and watch the action unfold.



RECORD: Vicky Silk

## Ashford storm to victory in season opener

### Becchhamian 12 Ashford 39

A DOMINANT Ashford ran in six tries in a clinical attacking display to begin the new Kent 1 League campaign with a resounding victory.

Although Becchhamian started strongly by forcing Ashford to defend in their own half, it was the visitors who opened the scoring after only two minutes. Ashford capitalised on a number of turnovers and a sweeping move allowed Chris Baker to run 40 metres unopposed to score the club's first try of the season. JJ Murray added the extras.

Bouyed by the try, the visitors went in

### RUGBY

search of another and were rewarded five minutes later. Murray exploited a gap in the Becchhamian defence and sidestepped three defenders on his way to the try line, before adding the conversion.

The home side enjoyed the majority of the possession and territory, but were unable to break through the Ashford defence and were let down at the breakdown. Another turnover was clinically finished by Rhys Fussell, who ran almost the length of the pitch to extend the visitor's lead. Tommy

Murray added a fourth try and claimed a bonus point minutes later.

The home side responded to the potential rout just before the break, when they were awarded a penalty try.

Becchhamian made a better start to the second-half and decreased Ashford's advantage with a second try. However, two tries from Dan Brown ended any hope of a comeback and completed a morale boosting victory for the visitors.

Ashford will hope to continue their impressive start to the season when they take the trip to Whitstable on Saturday.



TRAINING VENUES: Chilham Park and the Julie Rose Stadium (inset) are among venues that could be used by Team USA during the build-up to the London Olympics in 2012

## US Olympic officials eye up sporting facilities in town

THE UNITED States are among the countries to send delegations to inspect facilities in Kent this summer, with a view to training in the county ahead of the London Olympics.

Our sister paper, Kent on Sunday, revealed last month the county had twice as many training camp deals agreed already than any other county and the number is likely to increase sharply in the next few months.

Ashford is yet to finalise a deal, but is attracting a lot of interest. The town has four pre-approved training sites – Julie Rose Stadium, the Stour Centre, Great Chart Golf Club and Chilham Park. A delegation from Uganda was shown round last Monday, becoming the seventh country to view the facilities.

The most eye-catching visit has been from the

### FOOTBALL

■ BY DAVID PRITCHARD

United States, who sent a team to look at all four training venues in July. As one of the biggest Olympic teams they are expected to take some of the country's top facilities, with their track and field team signing an agreement with Birmingham.

Despite this Cllr Paul Bartlett, of Ashford council, felt it was a huge compliment for the town to even be considered.

He said: "We haven't had any feedback from them as to what they thought, but at the time they did say they were particularly impressed with the Julie Rose Stadium."

"A lot of people will go [to Birmingham] but they are looking at other venues. They have an

enormous team. I understand one single venue is going to struggle with the size of team they hope to send."

"They are keeping their options open, but also need a plan that's flexible and be able to accommodate last minute changes."

Ashford is extremely well placed to attract teams and with the high-speed rail link it is possible to go from the Stour Centre to the Olympic Stadium in 31 minutes.

Canada and New Zealand have also toured the town and Bartlett believes the interest will only heighten in the next few months.

He said: "Most of the visits have been in the last six to eight weeks. I would be disappointed if we didn't have at least the same number between now and Christmas."

"We have some top-class facilities that can be used by teams in preparation for the Games and we would be delighted to share them with as many as possible."

# Anguish and pride of Spencer's World Cup

## RUGBY

■ BY STEVE TERVET

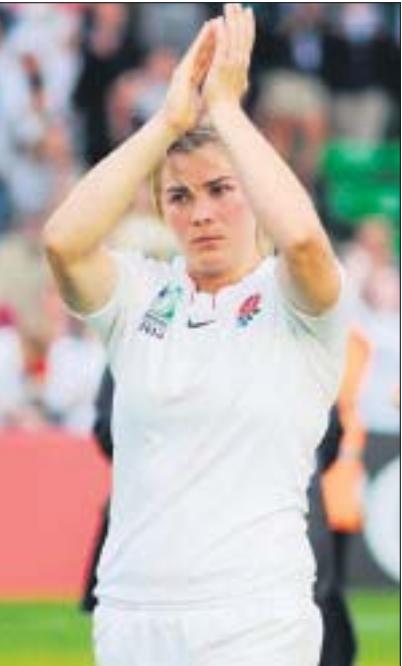
ENGLAND captain Cath Spencer says she may have played in her last World Cup after suffering the pain of defeat against New Zealand in the final.

The 31-year-old led her side to the brink of a famous victory at the Twickenham Stoop, but is undecided as to whether she will continue playing up to the 2014 tournament.

Spencer, born in Ashford, had hoped to lead England to their first World Cup victory since 1994, but the Black Ferns proved too strong once again and edged out the host nation 13-10. While Spencer believes the core of the England squad will return in four years' time, she conceded her own future remained less certain.

"I don't know [if I'll be back], it's a bit too early to say," she said. "I'm 31 now so I'll be 35, which is getting on a bit in international rugby."

"As individuals and as a team, we can still get better and we'll still have a strong nucleus of this team in four years' time. I want to retain the Six Nations and win another Grand Slam and I'll make a decision after that."



WORLD OF PAIN: England captain Cath Spencer

One of Spencer's great wishes before the World Cup was to boost the profile of women's rugby and with the final played out in front of 13,253, the evidence is that her side captured the nation's imagination.

The anguish of losing by such a narrow margin clearly hurt England, but Spencer insists they should all be hugely proud of their performances during the tournament.

"It's mixed emotions," she said. "We're gutted, devastated we didn't win but very proud of the way we played, particularly the first 20 minutes when we kept New Zealand out."

"Walking out onto the pitch and hearing the national anthem was something I'll never forget. It was a special moment and in some ways, it was written for us to win the World Cup."

"The whole tournament was a success and all the players can be proud. The profile of the sport has gone to new levels and there are numbers of people watching the game which we'd never have thought possible."

Having given up her job at a leisure centre to focus entirely on the World Cup, she begins a new position as a rugby development manager in the south west later this month.

"I've enjoyed years within rugby at all levels, from Folkestone up to the Premiership," she said. "I can now put something back into the sport and encourage more people to take up rugby, whether it be playing, coaching or refereeing."

## LEAGUE TABLE

(Not including midweek games)

### KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 VCD Athletic	3	3	0	0	+4	9
2 Greenwich Borough	4	3	0	1	+3	9
3 Herne Bay	5	2	2	1	+2	8
<b>4 Hythe Town</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>+3</b>	<b>7</b>
5 Sevenoaks Town	3	2	1	0	+3	7
6 Beckenham Town	4	2	1	1	+2	7
7 Corinthian	6	2	1	3	-1	7
8 Deal Town	4	2	0	2	-1	6
9 Fisher	5	2	0	3	-3	6
10 Erith Town	4	1	2	1	0	5
11 Norton Sports	2	1	1	0	+1	4
12 Erith & Belvedere	3	1	0	2	-1	3
13 Holmesdale	5	1	0	4	-3	3
14 Tunbridge Wells	2	0	2	0	0	2
15 Lordswood	5	0	1	4	-7	1
16 Sporting Bengal Utd	1	0	0	1	-2	0

## FIXTURES

(Tonight): KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION:

**Hythe Town** v Deal Town

(Saturday): KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION:

Sporting Bengal v **Hythe Town**

## TENNIS



CEREMONY: Wye Tennis Club members celebrate the opening of their new courts

## Club celebrates opening of new floodlit courts

THE future looks bright for Wye Tennis Club after two new floodlit courts were unveiled in front of a local crowd on Sunday.

Having received a £40,000 grant from the Lawn Tennis Association, the club, near Ashford, added the money to council funding for the new facilities.

Wye's membership has grown from 168 to 265 in recent years and the courts will allow the wider community to get involved, as well as improving facilities for existing members.

Andrew Wickham, of Kent County Council, opened the courts at Wye's Club American tournament and Ashford MP Damian Green also addressed the crowd.

"I'm very pleased to support Wye Tennis Club and the ambitions they are working towards," said Mr Wickham. "The opening of the new facilities will help increase access to tennis for the whole community and I would just like to emphasise how affordable tennis can be."

"I commend [club chairman] Graham Sutherland and his team in driving the club forward, in particular their involvement in encouraging more young children to take up the sport."

"Without people like Graham, with his energy and determination, it's hard for projects like this to come to fruition."

The LTA grant was off-set by additional contributions from Sport England, Ashford council, a Kent Community Grant and money raised by the club itself, with the total cost for the courts estimated at £91,000.

Sutherland said: "We are delighted to welcome Andrew to the club and would like to thank him for opening our new facilities as well as the support the council has given us to make this project possible. In addition, we are very grateful to Roger Draper and the LTA for giving us such support and encouragement."

## VIEW THIS CLIP ON

[yourkenttv.co.uk](http://yourkenttv.co.uk)

YOUR LOCAL TV ONLINE



CASS ACT: Brendon Cass scored Hythe's opener



Gills boss Andy Hessianhaler gives an update on the squad's injured players



# FASHION SHOW

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